

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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DEAMATE WORKS

DEAMATE and FISHBONE

VOL. 1

BEAUMONT, FRANCIS

T H E

DRAMATICK WORKS

O F

BEAUMONT and FLETCHER;

Collated with all the Former Editions,

A N D C O R R E C T E D ;

With Notes, Critical and Explanatory,

BY VARIOUS COMMENTATORS;

And Adorned with Fifty-four Original Engravings.

I N T E N V O L U M E S .

V O L U M E T H E N I N T H ;

C O N T A I N I N G ,

C O R O N A T I O N ;

S E A - V O Y A G E ;

C O X C O M B ;

W I T A T S E V E R A L W E A P O N S ;

F A I R M A I D O F T H E I N N ;

C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

L O N D O N ,

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M D C C L X X V I I I .



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THE
CORONATION.
A COMEDY.

The first edition of this Play was printed in quarto in the year 1646. and has the name of John Fletcher prefixed to it, as the Author. Upon this authority we have retained it in the present edition; notwithstanding there is evidence of equal weight to authorize us to ascribe it to James Shirley, the editor of the first folio in 1647. That writer, in the year 1653, published a volume of his Plays, and at the end of one of them, viz. The Cardinal, has enumerated the several Dramatic Pieces written by him: Amongst the rest, he has claimed the present performance, which, he says, was 'falsely ascribed to Fletcher;' with what degree of truth it is impossible now to determine. We think no argument can be drawn from the omission of it in the first folio; for the reason assigned in the first note to the Play. It has not been acted for many years past, nor do we know of its having ever been altered.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Seleucus, *supposed son to Eubulus; but, in reality,*
Leonatus, *the right king of Epirus.*

Arcadius, *supposed nephew to Macarius; but, in reality,*
Demetrius, *second son to the dead king.*

Eubulus, }
Macarius, } *noblemen, guardians to the late king's sons.*

Cassander, *lord-protector.*

Lyfimachus, *his son, a worthy gentleman.*

Nestorius, *father to Polidora.*

Philocles, }
Lyfander, } *courtiers.*

Poleanus, *captain of the castle.*

A Bishop, *and trustee of the dead king's will.*

Antigonus, *a gentleman in waiting.*

Servant to Polidora.

W O M E N.

Sophia, *queen of Epirus.*

Polidora, *courted by Arcadius, and his noble and constant mistress.*

Charilla, *an attendant on Sophia.*

Gentlemen, Gentlewomen, Masquers, &c. &c.

SCENE, EPIRUS.

THE

P R O L O G U E.

SINCE 'tis become the title of our Play,
 A woman once in a Coronation may
 With pardon speak the Prologue, give as free
 A welcome to the theatre, as he
 That with a little beard, a long black cloak,
 With a starch'd face and supple leg, hath spoke
 Before the plays the twelve-month; let me then
 Present a welcome to these gentlemen!
 If you be kind, and noble, you will not
 Think the worse of me for my petticoat.—
 But to the Play; the Poet bad me tell
 His fears first in the title, lest it swell
 Some thoughts with expectation of a strain,
 That but once could be seen in a king's reign.
 This Coronation he hopes you may
 See often; while the genius of his Play
 Doth prophesy, the conduits may run wine,
 When the day's triumph's ended, and divine
 Brisk nectar swell his temples to a rage,
 With something of more price t'invest the stage.
 There rests but to prepare you, that altho'
 It be a Coronation, there doth flow
 No under-mirth, such as doth lard the scene
 For coarse delight; the language here is clean;
 And confident, our Poet bad me say,
 He'll bate you but the folly of a Play:
 For which, altho' dull souls his pen despise,
 Who think it yet too early to be wise,
 The nobler will thank his Muse, at least
 Excuse him, 'cause his thought aim'd at the best.

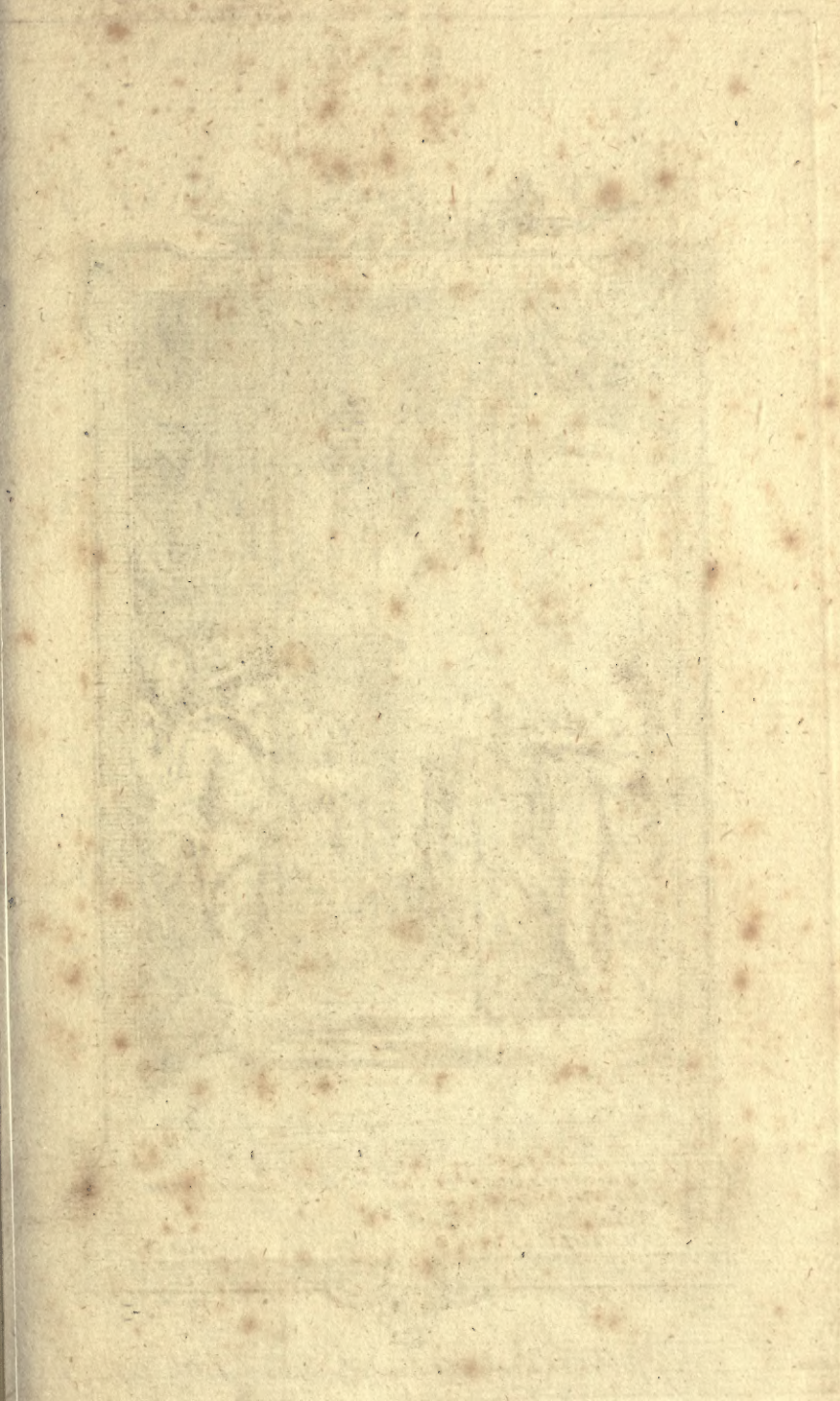
¹ *Who thinks it yet too early.* —] Corrected in 1750.

P R O L O G U E.

But we conclude not; it does rest in you
 To censure Poet, Play, and Prologue too.
 But, what have I omitted? is there not
 A blush upon my cheeks, that I forgot
 The ladies? and a female Prologue too!
 Your pardon, noble gentlewomen! you
 Were first within my thoughts: I know you fit
 As free, and high commissioners of wit,
 Have clear and active souls; nay, tho' the men
 Were lost, in your eyes they'll be found again:
 You are the bright intelligences move,
 And make a harmony this sphere of Love:
 Be you propitious then! our Poet says,
 One wreath from you², is worth their grove of bays.

² Our wreath from you.] Mr. Seward conjectured with me, that
one, not *our*, must be the word, and so I have altered the text.

Sympson.





THE CORONATION.



*Why mourns my love! It neither does become
Thy fortune, nor my joys.
Polid. But it becomes
My griefs!*

Act IV.

J. J. Barralet delin^t

C. Grignon sculp^t

Published as the Act directs, by T. Sherlock, Dec^r. 1777.

T H E C O R O N A T I O N.

A C T I.

Enter Philocles and Lyfander.

Philocles. **M**AKE way for my lord-protector!
Lyfan. Your Grace's servants!

Enter Cassander and Lyfimachus.

Cass. I like your diligent waiting. Where's Lyfimachus?

Lyfim. I wait upon you, Sir.

Cass. The queen looks pleasant
 This morning; does she not?

Lyfim. I ever found
 Her gracious smiles on me.

Cass. She does consult
 Her safety in't; for I must tell thee, boy,

³ *The Coronation.*] It were to be wished that the Publisher of our Authors Works in 1679 had given his reasons in the Preface, or elsewhere, why he took this Play into that edition. There seems to be no just grounds upon which he could go for so bold a practice, seeing the editor of the first folio in 1647, Mr. Shirley, has left it out; a person who must be better acquainted with what was our Authors', as living nearer to their time, than the editor of the second folio in 1679. 'Tis true, there are several fine strokes in it, which might possibly be Fletcher's; but those will no more entitle him to claim it for his own, than it will Shakespeare to assert the play of the Noble Kinsmen, in which we know he was partially concerned: To Mr. Shirley therefore, as he has laid claim to it, let's give this performance; nor rob him of the glory which *The Coronation* may do his memory. *Symphon.*

This note betrays a wonderful inattention in Symphon; since the *Coronation* was one of the plays printed in QUARTO, and Shirley professed to insert none in the FOLIO that had ever appeared in QUARTO.

6 THE CORONATION.

But in the assurance of her love to thee,
I should advance thy hopes another way,
And use the power I have in Epire, to
Settle our own, and uncontroled greatness:
But since she carrieth herself so fairly,
I am content t'expect, and by her marriage
Secure, thy fortune; that's all my ambition
Now: Be still careful in thy applications
To her; I must attend other affairs.
Return, and use what art thou canst to lay
More charms of love upon her.

Lyfim. I presume
She always speaks the language of her heart,
And I can be ambitious for no more
Happiness on earth, than she encourages
Me to expect.

Cass. It was an act becoming
The wisdom of her father, to engage
A tie between our families, and she
Hath play'd her best discretion to allow it.
But we lose time in conference; wait on her,
And be what thou wert born for, king of Epire!
I must away. [Exit.]

Lyfim. Success ever attend you.
Is not the queen yet coming forth?
* * * * *

Lyfan. Your servant!
You may command our duties. [Exit *Lyfim.*
This is the court-star, Philocles.

Phil. The star that we must sail by.

Lyfan. All must borrow
A light from him; the young queen directs all
Her favours that way.

⁴ *Is not the queen yet coming forth?*

Lyfan. *Your servant.*] *Lyxander's* asking this question supposes, that the gentlemen interrogated were capable of giving him an answer; but that the reader sees is no where to be found; therefore I have thought proper to mark an *hiatus* in the present text. *Symphon.*

Symphon, we suppose, meant *Lyfimachus*, instead of *Lyxander*, who asks no question, but is the next speaker.

Phil.

THE CORONATION. 9

Phil. He's a noble gentleman,
And worthy of his expectations:
Too good to be the son of such a father.

Lyfan. Peace! remember he is lord-protector.

Phil. We have more need of Heav'n's protection
I'th' mean time: I wonder the old king
Did in his life design him for the office.

Lyfan. He might suspect his faith; I have heard
when

The king, who was no Epirote, advanc'd
His claim, Cassander, our protector now,
Young then, oppos'd him toughly with his faction;
But forc'd to yield, had fair conditions,
And was declar'd, by the whole state, next heir,
If the king wanted issue: Our hopes only
Thriv'd in this daughter.

Phil. Whom, but for her smiles
And hope of marriage with Lyfimachus,
His father, by some cunning, had remov'd
Ere this.

Lyfan. Take heed! the arras may have ears.
I should not weep much if his Grace would hence
Remove to Heav'n.

Phil. I prithee what should he do there?

Lyfan. Some offices will fall.

Phil. And the sky too, ere I get one stair higher
While he's in place.

Enter Antigonus.

Ant. Lyfander, Philocles,
How looks the day upon us? Where's the queen?

Phil. In her bed-chamber.

Ant. Who was with her?

Lyfan. None but
The young lord Lyfimachus.

Ant. It is no treason,
If a man with himself a courtier
Of such a possibility: He has
The mounting fate.

8 THE CORONATION.

Phil. I would his father were
Mounted to th' gallows!

Ant. H'has a path fair enough
If he survive, by title of his father.

Lyfan. The queen will hasten his ascent.

Phil. 'Would I were queen!

Ant. Thou wouldst become rarely the petticoat!
What wouldst thou do!

Phil. Why, I would marry my
Gentleman-usher, and trust all the strength
And burden of my state upon his legs,
Rather than be called wife by any son
Of such a father.

Lyfan. Come, let's leave this subject!
We may find more secure discourse. When saw
You young Arcadius, lord Macarius' nephew?

Ant. There's a spark, a youth moulded for a
favourite!

The queen might do him honour.

Phil. Favourite?

It is too cheap a name; there were a match
Now for her virgin blood!

Lyfan. Must every man,
That has a handsome face or leg, feed such
Ambition? I confess I honour him,
He has a nimble soul, and gives great hope
To be no woman-hater; dances handsomely,
Can court a lady powerfully; but more
Goes to the making of a prince. He's here,
And's uncle.

Enter Arcadius, Macarius, and Seleucus.

Sel. Save you, gentlemen! Who can direct me
To find my lord-protector?

Lyfan. He was here
Within this half-hour: Young Lyfimachus
His son is with the queen.

Sel. There let him compliment;
I've other business.—Ha, Arcadius!

[*Exit.*

Phil.

Phil. Observ'd you with what eyes Arcadius
And he saluted? their two families
With hardly reconcile.

Ant. Seleucus carries
Himself too roughly: With what pride and scorn
He pass'd by 'em!

Lyfan. The other, with less show
Of anger, carries pride enough in's soul:
I wish 'em all at peace! Macarius' looks
Are without civil war, a good old man,
The old king lov'd him well; Seleucus' father
Was as dear to him, and maintain'd the character
Of an honest lord thro' Epire: That two men,
So lov'd of others, should be so unwelcome
To one another!

Arc. The queen was not wont
To fend for me.

Mac. The reason's to herself;
It will become your duty to attend her.

Arc. Save, you, gentlemen! What novelty
Does the court breathe to-day?

Lyfan. None, Sir; the news
That took the last impression is, that you
Purpose to leave the kingdom, and those men
That honour you take no delight to hear it.

Arc. I have ambition to see the difference
Of courts, and this may spare me; the delights
At home do surfeit; and the mistress, whom
We all do serve, is fix'd upon one object;
Her beams are too much pointed. But no country
Shall make me lose your memories.

Enter Sophia, Lyfimachus, and Charilla.

Sophia. Arcadius!

Mac. Your lordship honour'd me;
I have no blessing in his absence.

Lyfim. 'Tis
Done like a pious uncle.

Sophia. We must not

Give

10 THE CORONATION.

Give any licence.

Ant. If your majesty
Would please——

Sophia. We are not pleas'd! It had become your duty
T' have first acquainted us, ere you declar'd
Your resolution publick. Is our court
Not worth your stay?

Arc. I humbly beg your pardon!

Sophia. Where's Lyfimachus?

Lyfim. Your humble servant, madam.

Sophia. We shall find

Employment at home for you; do not lose us.

Arc. Madam, I then write myself blest'd on earth
When I may do you service. [Exit.

Sophia. We would be
Private, Macarius.

Mac. Madam, you have blest'd me!
Nothing but your command could interpose to
Stay him. [Exit.

Sophia. Lyfimachus, you must not leave us.

Lyfan. Nothing but
Lyfimachus? Has she not ta'en a philter? [Exit.

Sophia. Nay, pray be cover'd; ceremony from you
Must be excus'd.

Lyfim. It will become my duty.

Sophia. Not your love.

I know you would not have me look upon
Your person as a courtier^s, but a favourite;

^s *I know you would have me look upon*

Your person as a courtier, not a favourite;] This unmusical,
nonsensical place, is differently read in the quarto of 1640,

I know you would not have me look upon

Your person as a courtier, not as favourite;

That of 1679,

I know, &c.

—— *as a courtier, but a favourite;*

But yet the place is sad stuff still. I would suppose it once originally
run thus:

I know you would not——

Your person as a courtier, but a (or as) favourite;

(Tho') *that title were too narrow, &c.*

Symphon.

That..

That title were too narrow to express
How we esteem you.

Lyfim. The least of all
These names from you, madam, is grace enough.

Sophia. Yet here you would not rest?

Lyfim. Not if you please
To say there is a happiness beyond,
And teach my ambition how to make it mine :
Altho' the honours you already have
Let fall upon your servant, exceed all
My merit, I've a heart is studious
To reach it with desert, and make if possible
Your favours mine by justice, with your pardon.

Sophia. We're confident this needs no pardon, Sir,
But a reward to cherish your opinion :
And that you may keep warm your passion,
Know we resolve for marriage ; and if
I had another gift, besides myself,
Greater, in that you should discern how much
My heart is fix'd.

Lyfim. Let me digest my blessing !

Sophia. But I cannot resolve when this shall be.

Lyfim. How, madam ! Do not make me dream of
Heav'n,

And wake me into misery, if your purpose
Be, to immortalize your humble servant !
Your power on earth's divine ; princes are here
The copies of eternity, and create,
When they but will, our happiness.

Sophia. I shall
Believe you mock me in this argument ;
I have no power.

Lyfim. How ! no power ?

Sophia. Not as a queen.

Lyfim. I understand you not.

Sophia. I must obey ; your father's my protector.

Lyfim. How !

Sophia. When I'm absolute, Lyfimachus,
Our power and titles meet ; before, we're but
A shadow,

12 THE CORONATION.

A shadow, and to give you that were nothing.

Lyfim. Excellent queen! my love took no original
From state, or the desire of other greatness,
'Bove what my birth may challenge modestly.
I love your virtues; mercenary souls
Are taken with advancement: You've an empire
Within you, better than the world's; to that
Looks my ambition.

Sophia. T' other is not, Sir,
To be despis'd; cosmography allows
Epire a place i' th' map; and know, 'till I
Possess what I was born to, and alone
Do grasp the kingdom's sceptre, I account
Myself divided; he that marries me
Shall take an absolute queen to his warm bosom:
My temples yet are naked; until then
Our loves can be but compliments and wishes,
Yet very hearty ones.

Lyfim. I apprehend.

Sophia. Your father!

Enter Cassander and Seleucus.

Cass. Madam, a gentleman has an humble suit.

Sophia. 'Tis in your power to grant; you are
protector;

I am not yet a queen.

Cass. How's this?

Lyfim. I shall expound her meaning.

Sophia. Why kneel you, Sir?

Sel. Madam, to reconcile two families
That may unite both counsels and their blood
To serve your crown.

Sophia. Macarius', and Eubulus',
That bear inveterate malice to each other.
It grew, as I have heard, upon the question
(Which some of either family had made)
Which of their fathers was the best commander:
If we believe our stories, they have both
Deserv'd well of our state; and yet this quarrel

Ha

Has cost too many lives ; a severe faction !

Sel. But I'll propound a way to plant a quiet
And peace in both our houses, which are torn
With their dissensions, and lose the glory
Of their great names : My blood speaks my relation
T' Eubulus ; and I wish my veins were emptied
T' appease their war.

Sophia. Thou hast a noble soul !
This is a charity above thy youth,
And it flows bravely from thee. Name the way.

Sel. In such a desperate cause, a little stream
Of blood might purge the foulness of their hearts :
If you'll prevent a deluge——

Sophia. Be particular !

Sel. Let but your majesty consent that two
May, with their personal valour, undertake
The honour of their family, and determine
Their difference.

Sophia. This rather will enlarge
Their hate, and be a means to call more blood
Into the stream.

Sel. Not if both families
Agree, and swear——

Sophia. And who shall be the champions ?

Sel. I beg the honour, for Eubulus' cause
To be engag'd, if any for Macarius
(Worthy to wager heart with mine) accept it :
I'm confident, Arcadius
(For honour would direct me to his sword)
Will not deny to stake against my life
His own, if you vouchsafe us privilege.

Sophia. You are the expectation and top boughs
Of both your houses ; it would seem injustice
To allow a civil war to cut you off,
And yourselves the instruments. Besides,
You appear a soldier ; Arcadius
Hath no acquaintance yet with rugged war,
More fit to drill a lady than expose
His body to such dangers ; a small wound

I th'

14 THE CORONATION.

P'th' head may spoil the method of his hair,
 Whose curiosity exacts more time
 Than his devotion; and who knows but he
 May lose his ribbon by it in his lock ⁶,
 Dear as his saint, with whom he would exchange
 His head for her gay colours; then his band
 May be disorder'd and transform'd from lace
 To cutwork; his rich cloaths be discomplexion'd
 With blood, beside th' infashionable slashes;
 And he at the next festival take physick,
 Or put on black, and mourn for his slain breeches;
 His hands, cas'd up in gloves all night, and sweet
 Pomatum, the next day may be endanger'd
 To blisters with a sword; how can he stand
 Upon his guard, who hath fiddles in his head,
 To which his feet must ever be a-dancing?
 Besides, a falsify may spoil his cringe
 Or making of a leg, in which consists
 Much of his court-perfection.

Sel. Is this character
 Bestow'd on him?

Sophia. It something may concern
 The gentleman; whom if you please to challenge
 To dance, play on the lute, or sing——

Sel. Some catch?

Sophia. He shall not want those will maintain him
 For any sum.

Sel. You are my sovereign;
 I dare not think—yet I must speak somewhat ⁷;

⁶ *May lose his ribbon by it in his lock*] Alluding to the ridiculous fashion, in our Authors' time, of wearing *love-locks*. This custom is also satyriized in *Cupid's Revenge*; which see.

⁷ *I dare not think, yet I must speak somewhat.*] Why then 'tis plain he would speak without thinking; and is not this heroically said? However, tho' he durst not think, yet he was oblig'd to speak to keep himself from bursting. How nonsense, like fame, *wires acquirit eundo*! Surely, if we suppose the words could ever be sense, we must imagine they run once thus:

I dare not speak—and yet I must speak something

I shall burst else;—

i. e. He was afraid of speaking lest he should utter an affront to his queen;

I shall burst else:—I have no skill in jigs,
Nor tumbling——

Sophia. How, Sir!

Sel. Nor was I born a minstrel; and in this
You have so infinitely disgrac'd Arcadius,
But that I've heard another character,
And with your royal licence do believe it,
I should not think him worth my killing.

Sophia. Your killing?

Sel. Does she not jeer me?
I shall talk treason presently; I find it
At my tongue's end already: This is an
Affront! I'll leave her.

Sophia. Come back! Do you know Arcadius?

Sel. I ha' chang'd but little breath with him; our
persons
Admit no familiarity; we were
Born to live both at distance; yet I ha' seen him
Fight, and fight bravely.

Sophia. When the spirit of wine
Made his brain valiant, he fought bravely.

Sel. Altho' he be my enemy, should any
Of the gay flies that buz about the court,
Sit to catch trouts i'th' summer⁸, tell me so
I durst in any presence but your own——

Sophia. What?

Sel. Tell him he were not honest.

Sophia. I see, Seleucus, thou art resolute,
And I but wrong'd Arcadius: Your first
Request is granted, you shall fight, and he
That conquers be rewarded, to confirm
First place and honour to his family:
Is it not this you plead for?

queen; and yet if he did not speak, his anger unvented might do
him a mischief.

Sympson.
We think the text good and genuine, and *Sympson's* raillery point-
less and ill-founded.

⁸ Sit to catch trouts.] The Editors of 1750 substitute *fit* for *fit*;
we think improperly: Seleucus seems to mean, 'Courtiers that buz
'about the court, AND *fit* to catch, &c.'

Sel.

Sel. You are gracious.

Sophia. Lyfimachus !

Lyfim. Madam.

Cass. She has granted then ?

Sel. With much ado.

Cass. I wish thy sword may open
His wanton veins ! Macarius is too popular,
And has taught him to insinuate.

Sophia. It shall
But haste the confirmation of our loves,
And ripen the delights of marriage. Seleucus !

[*Exit cum Seleuco*]

Lyfim. As I guess'd !
It cannot be too soon.

Cass. Tomorrow then we crown her, and invest
My son with majesty ; 'tis to my wishes.
Beget a race of princes, my Lyfimachus !

Lyfim. First, let us marry, Sir.

Cass. Thy brow was made
To wear a golden circle ; I'm transported !
Thou shalt rule her, and I will govern thee.

Lyfim. Altho' you be my father, that will not
Concern my obedience, as I take it.

Enter Philocles, Lyfander, and Antigonus :

Cass. Gentlemen⁹,
Prepare yourselves for a solemnity
Will turn the kingdom into triumph : Epire,
Look fresh tomorrow !—'Twill become your duties,
In all your glory, to attend the queen at
Her Coronation ; she is pleas'd to make
The next day happy in our calendar :
My office doth expire, and my old blood
Renews with thought on't.

Phil. How's this ?

Ant. Crown'd tomorrow ?

⁹ *Gentlemen,*

[*Prepare yourselves.*] Mr. Seward has happily restored the speaker,
Cassander, which is dropt negligently thro' all the copies. *Symphon.*

Lyfim.

THE CORONATION. 17

Lyfan. And he so joyful to resign his regency?
There's some trick in't: I do not like these hasty
Turnings¹⁰, and whirls of state; they've commonly
As strange and violent effects. Well, Heav'n save
The queen!

Phil. Heav'n save the queen, say I, and send her
A sprightly bedfellow! For the protector,
Let him pray for himself; he's like to have
No benefit of my devotion.

Cass. But this doth quicken my old heart! *Lyfi-*
machus,
There is not any step into her throne,
But is the same degree of thy own state.
Come, gentlemen!

Lyfan. We attend your Grace.

Cass. *Lyfimachus!*

Lyfim. What heretofore could happen to mankind
Was with much pain to climb to Heav'n; but in
Sophia's marriage, of all queens the best,
Heav'n will come down to earth, to make me blest.
[*Exeunt.*

A C T II.

Enter Arcadius and Polidora.

Polid. **I**NDEED you shall not go.

Arc. Whither?

Polid. To travel.

I know you see me but to take your leave;

¹⁰ ———— *these hasty*

Proceedings, *and whirls of state.*] Every judge of poetry must
see, that *proceedings* is very unpoetical, both in sense and measure: I
take the true word to have been blotted in the manuscript, and this to
have been either the player or printer's insertion. I conjectur'd
turnings, and whirls of state, which I afterwards found a strong con-
firmation of in this very Play, act iii. scene iii.

Phil. 'Tis a strange turn.

Lyfan. *The whirligigs of women.*

Seward.

VOL. IX.

B

But

18 THE CORONATION.

But I must never yield to such an absence.

Arc. I prithee leave thy fears ! I am commanded
To th' contrary; I wonot leave thee now.

Polid. Commanded ? by whom ?

Arc. The queen.

Polid. I'm very glad ; for, trust me, I could think
Of thy departure with no comfort ! Thou
Art all the joy I have, half of my soul ;
But I must thank the queen now for thy company.
I prithee, what could make thee so desirous
To be abroad ?

Arc. Only to get an appetite
To thee, Polidora¹¹.

Polid. Then you must provoke it ?

Arc. Nay, prithee, do not so mistake thy servant,

Polid. Perhaps you surfeit with my love.

Arc. Thy love ?

Polid. Altho' I have no beauty to compare
With the best faces, I've a heart above
All competition.

Arc. Thou art jealous now :
Come, let me take the kifs I gave thee last !
I am so confident of thee, no lip
Has ravish'd it from thine. I prithee come
To court !

Polid. For what ?

Arc. There is the throne for beauty.

Polid. 'Tis safer dwelling here.

Arc. There's none will hurt,
Or dare but think an ill to Polidora ;
The greatest will be proud to honour thee :
Thy lustre wants the admiration here¹² ;
There thou wot shine indeed, and strike a reverence

¹¹ To thee, Polidora.] Seward reads, To Polidora.

¹² Thy lustre wants the admiration here.] We must either read,
—— that admiration ;

or, —— admiration there.

Symphon.

There needs no variation at all ; the meaning is simply, ' Thy
lustre wants [i. e. is without] its due admiration HERE ; THERE
'you would be noticed.'

Into the gazer.

Polid. You can flatter too.

Arc. No praise of thee can be thought so; thy virtue
Will deserve all. I must confess, we courtiers
Do oftentimes commend, to shew our art:
There is necessity sometimes to say
This madam breathes Arabian gums,
Amber, and cassia; tho', while we are praising,
We wish we had no nostrils to take in
Th' offensive steam of her corrupted lungs.
Nay, some will swear they love their mistress,
Would hazard lives and fortunes to preserve
One of her hairs brighter than Berenice's,
Or young Apollo's; and yet, after this,
A favour from another toy would tempt him
To laugh, while the officious hangman whips
Her head off.

Polid. Fine men!

Arc. I am none of these:

Nay, there are women, Polidora, too
That can do pretty well at flatteries;
Make men believe they dote, will languish for 'em,
Can kiss a jewel out of one, and dally
A carcanet¹³ of diamonds from another,
Weep into th' bosom of a third, and make
Him drop as many pearls; they count it nothing
To talk a reasonable heir within ten days
Out of his whole estate, and make him mad
He has no more wealth to consume.

Polid. You'll teach me

To think I may be flatter'd in your promises,
Since you live where this art is most profess'd.

Arc. I dare not be so wicked, Polidora.

The infant errors of the court I may
Be guilty of, but never to abuse
So rare a goodness; nor indeed did ever

¹³ *A carcanet.*] A necklace, from the old French word *carcan*, whose diminutive was *carcanet*. See Cotgrave's Dictionary. It is used in Shakespeare, vol. ii. p. 178.

20 THE CORONATION.

Converse with any of those shames of court,
To practise for base ends. Be confident
My heart is full of thine, and I so deeply
Carry the figure of my Polidora,
It is not in the power of time or distance
To cancel it. By all that's blest, I love thee,
Love thee above all women, dare invoke
A curse when I forsake thee.

Polid. Let it be
Some gentle one.

Arc. Teach me an oath I prithee,
One strong enough to bind, if thou dost find
Any suspicion of my faith; or else
Direct me in some horrid imprecation!
When I forsake thee for the love of other
Woman, may Heav'n reward my apostacy,
To blast my greatest happiness on earth¹⁴,
And make all joys abortive!

Polid. Revoke these hasty syllables! they carry
Too great a penalty for breach of love
To me; I am not worth thy suffering;
You do not know what beauty may invite
Your change, what happiness may tempt your eye
And heart together.

Arc. Should all the graces of your sex conspire
In one, and she should court me with a dower
Able to buy a kingdom, when I give
My heart from Polidora——

Polid. I suspect not;
And to requite thy constancy, I swear——

Arc. It were a sin to let thee waste thy breath;

¹⁴ ——— of other

Women, may Heav'n reward my apostacy
[To blast, &c.] Mr. Seward supposes the words misplac'd here,
and that the natural order is thus;

—— may to reward my apostacy

Heav'n blast my greatest happiness.

Symphon.

The old reading gives good sense, and more strongly expresses,
that 'blasting his happiness would be the proper reward of his false-
'hood.'

I have assurance of thy noble thoughts.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. My lord, your uncle hath been every where
I'th' court enquiring for you; his looks speak
Some earnest cause. [*Exit.*

Arc. I'm more acquainted with
Thy virtue, than t' imagine thou wilt not
Excuse me now: One kiss dismisses him
Whose heart shall wait on Polidora.

Polid. Prithee¹⁵
Let me not wish for thy return too often!
My father? [*Exit Arc.*

Enter Nestorius and a Servant.

Nest. I met Arcadius in strange haste; he told me
He had been with thee.

Polid. Some affair too soon
Ravish'd him hence; his uncle sent for him.
You came now from court: How looks the queen
This golden morning?

Nest. Like a bride: Her soul
Is all on mirth; her eyes have quick'ning fires,
Able to strike a spring into the earth
In winter.

Polid. Then Lyfimachus can have
No frost in's blood, that lives so near her beams.

Nest. His politic father, the protector, smiles too.
Resolve to see the ceremony of the queen;
'Twill be a day of state.

Polid. I am not well.

Nest. How! not well? retire then. I must return;
My attendance is expected. Polidora,
Be careful of thy health!

¹⁵ *Whose heart shall wait on Polidora, prithee*

Let me not wish —] The least attention to this passage will
convince the reader, that the insertion of *Polidora's* name before
Prithee let me not, which Mr. Seward too communicated to me, is
entirely requisite to the sense of this place. *Symphon.*

Polid. It will concern me.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Arcadius and Macarius.

Arc. You amaze me, Sir.

Mac. Dear nephew, if thou respect thy safety,
My honour, or my age, remove thyself;
Thy life's in danger.

Arc. Mine? Who is my enemy?

Mac. Take horse, and instantly forsake the city,
Or else within some unsuspected dwelling
Obscure thyself; stay not to know the reason.

Arc. Sir, I beseech your pardon! Which, i'th'
number

Of my offences unto any, should
Provoke this dishonourable flight?

Mac. I would, when I petition'd for thy stay,
I'd pleaded for thy banishment; thou know'st not
What threatens thee.

Arc. I would desire to know it:
I am in no conspiracy of treason,
Have ravish'd no man's mistress, not so much
As given the lie to any: What should mean
Your strange and violent fears? I will not stir
Until you make me sensible I've lost
My innocence.

Mac. I must not live to see
Thy body full of wounds; it were less sin
To rip thy father's marble, and fetch from
The reverend vault his ashes, and disperse them
By some rude winds, where none should ever find
The sacred dust: It was his legacy,
The breath he mingled with his prayers to Heaven,
I should preserve Arcadius, whose fate
He prophesied in death would need protection:
Thou wot disturb his ghost, and call it to
Affright my dreams, if thou refuse t'obey me.

Arc. You more inflame me, to enquire the cause
Of your distraction; and you'll arm me better
Than any coward flight, by acquainting me

Whose

Whose malice aims to kill me : Good Sir, tell me !

Mac. Then, prayers and tears assist me !

Arc. Sir ?

Mac. Arcadius,

Thou art a rash young man, witness the spirit

Of him that trusted me so much ! I bleed,

'Till I prevent this mischief.

[*Exit.*

Enter Philocles and Lyfander.

Arc. Ha ! keep off.

Phil. What mean you, Sir ?

Lyfan. We are your friends.

Arc. I know your faces, but
Am not secure : I would not be betray'd.

Lyfan. You wrong our hearts, who truly honour
you.

Arc. They say I must be kill'd.

Phil. By whom ?

Arc. I know not,
Nor would I part with life so tamely.

Phil. We dare
Engage ours in your quarrel ; hide your sword,
It may beget suspicion ; it is
Enough to question you.

Arc. I'm confident ;
Pray pardon me ! come, I despise all danger ;
Yet a dear friend of mine, my uncle, told me
He would not see my body full of wounds.

Lyfan. Your uncle ? this is strange.

Arc. Yes, my honest uncle.
If my unlucky stars have pointed me
So dire a fate——

Phil. There is some strange mistake in't.

Enter Antigonus.

Ant. Arcadius, the queen would speak with you ;
You must make haste.

Arc. Tho' to my death, I fly
Upon her summons ; I give up my breath

24 THE CORONATION.

Then willingly, if she command it from me. [*Exit.*
Phil. This does a little trouble me.

Lyfan. I know not
 What to imagine; something is the ground
 Of this perplexity, but I hope there is not
 Any such danger as he apprehends.

*Enter Sophia, Lyfimachus, Macarius, Eubulus, Seleucus,
 Arcadius, Ladies, Attendants, and Gentlemen.*

Sophia. We have already granted to Seleucus,
 And they shall try their valour, if Arcadius
 Have spirit in him to accept the challenge;
 Our royal word is passed.

Phil. This is strange.

Eub. Madam, my son knew not what he ask'd,
 And you were cruel to consent so soon.

Mac. Wherein have I offended, to be robb'd
 At once of all the wealth I have? Arcadius
 Is part of me.

Eub. Seleucus' life and mine
 Are twisted on one thread, both stand or fall
 Together. Hath the service for my country
 Deserv'd but this reward, to be sent weeping
 To my eternal home? Was't not enough,
 When I was young, to lose my blood in wars,
 But the poor remnant that is scarcely warm,
 And faintly creeping thro' my wither'd veins,
 Must be let out to make you sport?

Mac. How can
 We, that shall this morn see the sacred oil
 Fall on your virgin tresses, hope for any
 Protection hereafter, when this day
 You sacrifice the blood of them that pray for you?
 Arcadius, I prithee speak thyself;
 It is for thee I plead.

Eub. Seleucus, kneel,
 And say thou hast repented thy rash suit!
 If ere I see thee fight I be thus wounded,
 How will the least drop forced from thy veins

Afflict my heart?

Mac. Why, that's good!

Arcadius, speak to her; hear him, madam.

Arc. If you call back this honour you have done me,
I shall repent I live.—Do not persuade me!—

Seleucus, thou'rt a noble enemy;
And I will love thy soul, tho' I despair
Our bodies' friendly conversation:
I would we were to tug upon some cliff,
Or, like two prodigies i'th' air, our conflict
Might generally be gaz'd at, and our blood
Appease our grandfires' ashes!

Mac. I'm undone!

Sel. Madam, my father says I have offended;
If so, I beg your pardon, but beseech you,
For your own glory, call not back your word!

Eub. They are both mad.

Sophia. No more! we have resolv'd:
And since their courage is so nobly flam'd,
This morning we'll behold the champions
Within the list. Be not afraid their strife
Will stretch so far as death. So soon as we
Are crown'd, prepare yourselves. Seleucus!
[*Seleucus kisses her hand.*]

Sel. I have receiv'd another life in this
High favour, and may lose what nature gave me.

Sophia. Arcadius, to encourage thy young valour,
We give thee our father's sword;
Command it from our armory. Lyfimachus,
To our Coronation. [Exeunt.]

Eub. I will forfeit sooner
My head for a rebellion, than suffer it¹⁶. [Exit.]

Mac. I'm circled with confusions! I'll do somewhat:
My brains and friends assist me!

Phil.

¹⁶ *Sel.* I'll forfeit, &c.

Arc. I am circled——] Mr. Theobald and Mr. Seward agree with me here are two false names put into these two places; and that *Eubulus* should supply *Seleucus* and *Macarius Arcadius*, and tis plain, for

26 THE CORONATION.

Phil. But do you think they'll fight indeed?

Lyfan. Perhaps

Her majesty will see a bout or two:

And yet 'tis wondrous strange! such spectacles

Are rare i'th' court. An they were to skirmish naked

Before her, then there might be some excuse.

There is some gimcracks in't; the queen is wise

Above her years.

Phil. Macarius is perplex'd.

Enter Eubulus.

Lyfan. I cannot blame him. But my lord Eubulus
Returns; they are both troubled: 'Las, good men!
But our duties are expected; we forget.

[*Exeunt Philocles and Lyfander.*]

Eub. I must resolve; and yet things are not ripe,
My brain's upon the torture!

Mac. This may quit

The hazard of his person, whose least drop

Of blood is worth more than our families.

My lord Eubulus, I have thought a way

To stay the young mens' desperate proceedings:

It is our cause they fight; let us beseech

The queen, to grant us two the privilege

Of duel, rather than expose their lives

To either's fury; It were pity they

Should run upon so black a destiny;

We are both old, and may be spar'd; a pair

Of fruitless trees, mossy and wither'd trunks,

That fill up too much room.

Eub. Most willingly;

And I will praise her charity t' allow it:

I have not yet forgot to use a sword.

Let's lose no time! By this act, she will licence

for *Seleucus* and *Arcadius* are not now upon the stage, but went off
with the queen, *Lyfimachus*, &c. I have likewise ventured to add a
word to

Eub. I'll forfeit

My head, &c.

which was not sense, as it stood in all the copies.

Symphon.

Our

Our souls to leave our bodies but a day,
Perhaps an hour, the sooner; they may live
To do her better service, and be friends
When we are dead. And yet I have no hope
This will be granted; curse upon our faction!

Mac. If she deny us——

Eub. What?

Mac. I would do somewhat——

Eub. There's something o' the sudden struck upon
My imagination, that may secure us.

Mac. Name it; if no dishonour wait upon't;
To preserve them, I'll accept any danger.

Eub. There is no other way—and yet my heart
Would be excus'd—but 'tis to save his life.

Mac. Speak it, Eubulus.

Eub. In your ear I shall;
It sha'not make a noise if you refuse it.

Mac. Hum! tho' it stir my blood, I'll meet.
Arcadius,

If this preserve thee not, I must unseal
Another mystery.

[*Exeunt.*]

*Enter Sophia, Lyfimachus, Cassander, Charilla,
Lysander, Philocles, and Antigonus.*

Sophia. We owe to all your loves, and will deserve,
At least by our endeavours, that none may
This day repent their prayers. My lord-protector!

Cas. Madam,
I have no such title now, and am blest to lose
That name so happily: I was but trusted
With a glorious burden.

Sophia. You have prov'd
Yourself our faithful counsellor, and must still
Protect our growing state: A kingdom's scepter
Weighs down a woman's arm; this crown sits heavy
Upon my brow already; and we know
There's something more than metal in this wreath
Of shining glory; but your faith and counsel,
That are familiar with mysteries,

And

28 THE CORONATION.

And depths of state, have power to make us fit
For such a bearing, in which both you shall
Do loyal service, and reward your duties.

Cass. Heav'n preserve your highness!

Sophia. But yet, my lords and gentlemen, let none
Mistake me, that, because I urge your wisdoms,
I shall grow careless, and impose on you
The managing of this great province! no,
We will be active too; and as we are
In dignity above your persons, so
The greatest portion of the difficulties
We call to us, you in your several places
Relieving us with your experience,
Observing in your best directions
All modesty, and distance; for altho'
We are but young, no action shall forfeit
Our royal privilege, or encourage any
To unreverent boldness. As it will become
Our honour to consult, ere we determine,
Of the most necessary thing of state;
So we are sensible of any check¹⁷,
But in a brow, that saucily controls
Our action, presuming on our years
As few, or frailty of our sex; that head
Is not secure, that dares our power or justice.

Phil. Sh' has a brave spirit! Look how the protector
Grows pale already!

Sophia. But I speak to you
Are perfect in obedience, and may spare
This theme; yet 'twas no immaterial
Part of our character, since I desire
All should take notice I have studied
The knowledge of myself; by which I shall

¹⁷ *So we are sensible of a check.*] Seward would read,
So were not sensible of any check.

But in a brow, &c.

We have adopted Sympsen's reading, which he thus explains: 'Even
'the least seeming dislike to our judgment expressed by a wrinkled brow,
'we are sensible of, &c.'

Better distinguish of your worth and persons
In your relations to us.

Lyfan. This language
Is but a threatening to somebody.

Sophia. But we miss some, that use not to absent
Their duties from us: Where's Macarius?

Cass. Retir'd to grieve, your majesty hath given
Consent Arcadius should enter list
To-day, with young Seleucus.

Sophia. We purpose

Enter Gentleman.

They shall proceed. What's he?

Phil. A gentleman
Belonging to Seleucus, that gives notice
He is prepar'd, and waits your royal pleasure.

Sophia. He was compos'd for action. Give notice
To Arcadius, and admit the challenger!
Let other princes boast their gaudy tilting,
And mockery of battles! but our triumph
Is celebrated with true noble valour,

*Enter Seleucus and Arcadius at several doors, their
pages before them, bearing their targets.*

Two young men spirited enough to have
Two kingdoms stak'd upon their swords. Lyfimachus,
Do not they excellently become their arms?
'Twere pity but they should do something more
Than wave their plumes. [*A shout within.*] What
noise is that?

Enter Macarius and Eubulus.

Mac. The peoples' joy, to know us reconcil'd,
Is added to the jubilee o' th' day:
We have no more a faction, but one heart.
Peace flow in every bosom!

Eub. Throw away
These instruments of death, and like two friends
Embrace by our example.

Sophia.

Sophia. This unfeign'd?

Mac. By our duties to yourself! Dear madam,
Command them not advance: Our houses from
This minute are incorporated; happy day!
Our eyes, at which before revenge look'd forth,
May clear suspicion. Oh, my Arcadius!

Eub. We've found a nearer way to friendship,
madam,
Than by exposing them to fight for us.

Sophia. If this be faithful, our desires are blest'd.
We had no thought to waste, but reconcile
Your blood this way, and we did prophesy¹⁸
This happy chance: Spring into either's bosom,
Arcadius and Seleucus!—What can now
Be added to this day's felicity?
Yes, there is something, is there not, my lord,
While we are virgin-queen?

Cass. Ha! that string
Doth promise musick.

Sophia. I am yet, my lords,
Your single joy; and when I look upon
What I have took to manage, the great care
Of this most flourishing kingdom, I incline
To think I shall do justice to myself
If I chuse one, whose strength and virtue may
Assist my undertaking: Think you, lords,
A husband would not help?

Lyfan. No question, madam¹⁸;
And he that you purpose to make so blest'd,
Must needs be worthy of our humblest duty:
It is the general vote.

Sophia. We will not then
Trouble ambassadors to treat with any
Princes abroad; within our own dominion,
Fruitful in honour, we shall make our choice;
And that we may not keep you over long
In th' imagination, from this circle we
Have purpose to elect one, whom I shall

¹⁸ And we did prophesy.] i. e. Foresee.

Salute a king and husband.

Lyfan. Now, my lord Lyfimachus!

Sophia. Nor shall we in this action be accus'd
Of rashness, since the man we shall declare
Deserving our affection hath been early
In our opinion, (which had reason first
To guide it, and his known nobility)
Long married to our thoughts, will justify
Our fair election.

Phil. Lyfimachus blushes.

Cass. Direct our duties, madam, to pray for him!
[She comes from the state.]

Sophia. Arcadius, you see from whence we come;
Pray lead us back: You may ascend.

Cass. How's this? o'er-reach'd?

Arc. Madam, be charitable to your humblest creature!

Do not reward the heart, that falls in duty
Beneath your feet, with making me the burden
Of the court-mirth, a mockery for pages!
'Twere treason in me but to think you mean thus.

Sophia. Arcadius, you must refuse my love,
Or shame this kingdom.

Phil. Is the wind in that corner?

Cass. I shall run mad, Lyfimachus!

Lyfim. Sir, contain yourself.

Sel. Is this to be believ'd?

Mac. What dream is this?

Phil. He kisses her! now, by this day, I'm glad on't.

Lyfan. Mark the protector!

Ant. Let him fret his heart-strings!

Sophia. Is the day cloudy on the sudden?

Arc. Gentlemen,

It was not my ambition; (I durst never
Aspire so high in thought) but since her majesty
Hath pleas'd to call me to this honour, I
Will study to be worthy of her grace,
By whom I live.

Sophia. The church tomorrow shall

Confirm

32 THE CORONATION.

Confirm our marriage. Noble Lyfimachus,
We'll find out other ways to recompense
Your love to us. Set forward! Come, Arcadius!

[*Exeunt Sophia, Arcadius, and Philocles.*]

Mac. It must be so; and yet let me consider!

Cass. He insults already! Policy, assist me
To break his neck!

Lyfim. Who would trust woman?

Lost, in a pair of minutes lost! How bright
A morning rose but now, and now 'tis night. [*Exc.*]

A C T III.

Enter Polidora and Servant.

Polid. OH, where shall virgins look for faith here-
after,

If he prove false, after so many vows?

And yet, if I consider, he was tempted

Above the strength of a young lover: Two

Such glories courting¹⁹ his acceptance, were

Able to make disloyalty no sin,

At least not seem a fault: A lady first,

Whose very looks would thaw a man more frozen

'Than th' Alps, quicken a soul more dead than winter;

Add to her beauty and perfection,

That she's a queen, and brings with her a kingdom

Able to make a great mind forfeit Heaven.

What could the frailty of Arcadius

Suggest, t'unspirit him so much, as not

To fly to her embraces?—You were present

When she declar'd herself?

Serv. Yes, madam.

Polid. Tell me,

Did not he make a pause, when the fair queen

¹⁹ Such glorious courting.] Corrected in 1750.

A full temptation stood him?

Serv. Very little

My judgment could distinguish: She did no sooner
Propound, but he accepted.

Polid. That was ill.

He might with honour stand one or two minutes;
Methinks it should have startled him a little
To have remember'd me; I have deserv'd
At least a cold thought. Well, pray give it him.

Serv. I shall.

[*Polid.* gives him a letter.]

Polid. When?

Serv. Instantly.

Polid. Not so;

But take a time when his joy swells him most,
When his delights are high and ravishing,
When you perceive his soul dance in his eyes,
When she, that must be his, hath dress'd her beaut
With all her pride, and sends a thousand Cupids
To call him to the tasting of her lip;
Then give him this, and tell him, while I live,
I'll pray for him.

Serv. I shall.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Cassander and Lyfimachus.

Cass. There is no way but death.

Lyfim. That's black and horrid!

Consider, Sir, it was her sin, not his;
I cannot accuse him; what man could carry
A heart so frozen, not to melt at such
A glorious flame? Who could not fly to such
A happiness?

Cass. Have you ambition
To be a tame fool? See so vast an injury,
And not revenge it? Make me not suspect
Thy mother for this sufferance, my son.

Lyfim. Pray hear me, Sir.

Cass. Hear a patient gull,
A property? Thou hast no blood of mine,
If this affront provoke thee not: How canst

34 THE CORONATION.

Be charitable to thyself, and let him live
To glory in thy shame? Nor is he innocent;
He had before crept slyly into her bosom,
And practis'd thy dishonour.

Lyfim. You begin
To stir me, Sir.

Cass. How else could she be guilty
Of such contempt of thee, and in the eye
Of all the kingdom? they conspir'd this stain,
When they had cunning meetings. Shall thy love
And blooming hopes be scatter'd thus, and *Lyfi-*
machus
Stand idle gazer?

Lyfim. What, Sir, will his death
Advantage us, if she be false to me?
So irreligious? and to touch her person—
Pause, we may be observ'd.

Enter Philocles and Lyfander.

Lyfan. 'Tis the protector
And his son.

Phil. Alas, poor gentleman! I pity his
Neglect, but am not sorry for his father.
'Tis a strange turn.

Lyfan. The whirligigs of women!

Phil. Your Grace's servant.

Cass. I am yours, gentlemen;
And should be happy to deserve your loves.

Phil. Now he can flatter.

Lyfan. Not, Sir, to enlarge
Your sufferings, I have a heart doth wish
The queen had known better to reward
Your love and merit.

Lyfim. If you would express
Your love to me, pray do not mention it.
I must obey my fate.

Phil. She will be married
To t'other gentleman for certain then?

Cass. I hope you'll wish 'em joy.

Phil.

Phil. Indeed I will, Sir.

Lyfan. Your Grace's servant! [*Exeunt.*]

Cass. We are grown
Ridiculous, the pastime of the court!—
Here comes another.

Enter Seleucus.

Sel. Where's your son, my lord?

Cass. Like a neglected servant of his mistress—

Sel. I would ask him a question.

Cass. What?

Sel. Whether the queen,
As 'tis reported, lov'd him: He can tell
Whether she promis'd what they talk of, marriage.

Cass. I can resolve you that, Sir.

Sel. She did promise?

Cass. Yes.

Sel. Then she's a woman; and your son—

Cass. What?

Sel. Not
Worthy his blood, and expectation,
If he be calm.

Cass. There's no opposing destiny.

Sel. I'd cut the throat—

Cass. Whose throat?

Sel. The destiny's; that's all. Your pardon, Sir!
I am Seleucus still; a poor shadow
O'th' world, a walking picture! it concerns
Not me; I am forgotten by my stars.

Cass. The queen, with more discretion, might ha'
chosen thee.

Sel. Whom?

Cass. Thee, Seleucus.

Sel. Me?

I cannot dance, and frisk with due activity!
My body's lead, I've too much phlegm; what should I
Do with a kingdom? No, Arcadius
Becomes the cushion, and can please. Yet, setting
Aside the trick that ladies of blood look at,
Another man might make a shift to wear

36 THE CORONATION.

Rich cloaths, sit in the chair of state, and nod,
Dare venture on discourse that does not trench
On compliment, and think the study of arms
And arts more commendable in a gentleman,
Than any galliard ²⁰.

Cass. Arcadius

And you were reconcil'd?

Sel. We? yes; oh, yes.

But 'tis not manners now to say we are friends;
At our equality there had been reason,
But now *subjection* is the word.

Cass. They are not yet married?

Sel. I'll make no oath upon't. My lord Lyfimachus,

A word! You'll not be angry if I love you?
May not a batchelor be made a cuckold?

Lyfim. How, Sir!

Cass. Lysimachus, this gentleman
Is worthy our embrace; he's spirited,
And may be useful.

Sel. Hark you; can you tell

Where's the best dancing-master? An you mean
To rise at court, practise to caper: Farewell,
The noble science that makes work for cutlers!
It will be out of fashion to wear swords;
Masques and devices, welcome! I salute you.
Is it not pity any division

Should be heard out of musick? Oh, 'twill be
An excellent age of crotchets, and of canters!
B'y, captains ²¹, that like fools will spend your blood
Out of your country! you will be of less
Use than your feathers; if you return unmaim'd,
You shall be beaten soon to a new march,
When you shall think it a discretion

²⁰ *Galliard.*] 'The Galliard is a lively air in triple time; Brof-
'fard intimates that it is the same with the *Romanesca*, a favourite
'dance with the Italians.' *Sir John Hawkins, Hist. Musick*, vol.
iv. p. 387.

²¹ Buy captains, that like fools——if you return unmann'd.} Both
errors corrected by Seward.

To sell your glorious buffs to buy fine pumps,
And pantables; this is, I hope, no treason.

*Enter Arcadius leading Sophia, Charilla, Eubulus,
Lysander, Philocles, and Polidora's Servant*²².

Cass. Wo't stay, Lysimachus?

Lysim. Yes, Sir, and shew

A patience above her injury.

Arc. This honour is too much, madam! Assume
Your place, and let Arcadius wait still;
'Tis happiness enough to be your servant.

Cass. Now he dissembles.

Sophia. Sir, you must sit.

Arc. I am obedient. [Music heard.

Sophia. This is not music
Sprightly enough; it feeds the soul with melancholy.
How says Arcadius?

Arc. Give me leave to think,
There is no harmony but in your voice,
And not an accent of your heav'nly tongue,
But strikes me into rapture: I incline
To think the tale of Orpheus no fable;
'Tis possible he might enchant the rocks,
And charm the forest, soften Hell itself,
With his commanding lute; it is no miracle
To what you work, whose ev'ry breath conveys
The hearer into Heav'n: How at your lips
Winds gather perfumes, proudly glide away,
To disperse sweetness round about the world!

Sel. Fine stuff!

Sophia. You cannot flatter.

Arc. Not, if I should say
Nature had plac'd you here the creatures' wonder,
And her own spring, from which all excellence
On earth's deriv'd, and copied forth; and when
The character of fair and good in others
Is quite worn out, and lost, looking on you
It is supplied, and you alone made mortal,

²² *Polidora, Servant.*] Corrected by Sympton.

38 THE CORONATION.

To feed and keep alive all beauty.

Sel. Ha! ha! Can you endure it, gentlemen?

Lyfan. What do you mean?

Sel. Nay, ask him what he means;

Mine is a down-right laugh.

Sophia. Well, Sir, proceed.

Arc. At such bright eyes the stars do light themselves,

At such a forehead swans renew their white,
From such a lip the morning gathers blushes.

Sel. The morning is more modest than thy praises;
What a thing does he make her?

Arc. And when you fly to Heav'n, and leave this world

No longer maintenance of goodness from you,
Then poetry shall lose all use with us,
And be no more, since nothing in your absence
Is left, that can be worthy of a verse.

Sel. Ha, ha!

Sophia. Who's that?

Sel. 'Twas I, madam,

Arc. Seleucus?

Cass. Ha!

Sel. Yes, Sir; 'twas I that laugh'd.

Arc. At what?

Sel. At nothing.

Lyfan. Contain yourself, Seleucus.

Eub. Are you mad?

Sophia. Have you ambition to be punish'd, Sir?

Sel. I need not; 'twas punishment

Enough to hear him make an idol of you;
He left out the commendation of your patience.

I was a little moved in my nature,

To hear his rodomontados, and make

A monster of his mistress; which

I pitied first; but seeing him proceed,

I guess'd he brought you mirth with his inventions,
And so made bold to laugh at it.

Sophia. You're saucy!

We'll

We'll place you where you shall not be so merry.

Take him away!

Lyfan. Submit yourself.

Arc. Let me

Plead for his pardon.

Sel. I would not owe

My life so poorly! Beg thy own: When you

Are king you cannot bribe your destiny.

Eub. Good madam, hear me! I fear he is distracted.

Cass. Brave boy!—Thou shouldst be master of a
soul

Like his; thy honour's more concern'd²³.

Sel. 'Tis charity;

Away wo' me! B'y', madam²⁴!

Cass. He has a daring spirit. [*Exeunt Sel. Eub. Cass.*]

Arc. These, and a thousand more affronts, I must
Expect; your favours draw them all upon me:

In my first state I had no enemies;

I was secure, while I did grow beneath

This expectation; humble vallies thrive with

Their bosoms full of flowers, when the hills melt

With lightning, and rough anger of the clouds.

Let me retire.

Sophia. And can Arcadius

At such a breath be mov'd? I had opinion

Your courage durst have stood a tempest for

Our love: Can you for this incline to leave

What other princes should in vain have sued for?

²³ *Brave boy, &c.*] This speech was joined to that of Eubulus, 'till Mr. Seward discovered the error.

²⁴ ——— 'boy, madam?'] We find afterward Seleucus sent to prison, for which there is now no express command given by the queen; and in the next place it is evident that she had call'd him *boy*, to which, *Boy, madam*, is an answer. The words omitted, might probably come in between Eubulus and Cassander's speeches, and might be to this effect,

Away with that audacious boy to prison.

Seward.

What occur'd to me upon reading this passage was this, that *boy* is only a corruption of *b'y'*, and designed as an ironical taking leave of the queen on his going to prison.

Symphon.

Symphon is undoubtedly right.

40 THE CORONATION.

How many lovers are in Epire now
Would throw themselves on danger, not expect
One enemy, but empty their own veins,
And think the loss of all their blood rewarded,
To have one smile of us when they are dying!
And shall this murmur shake you?

Arc. Not, dear madam;
My life is such a poor despised thing,
In value your least graces, that to lose
It were to make myself a victory.
It is not for myself I fear: The envy
Of others cannot fasten wound in me
Greater, than that your goodness should be check'd
So daringly.

Sophia. Let not those thoughts afflict thee,
While we have power to correct th' offences,
Arcadius, be mine! This shall confirm it. [*Kisses him.*]

Arc. I shall forget,
And lose my way to Heav'n: That touch had been
Enough to have restor'd me, and infus'd
A spirit of a more celestial nature,
After the tedious absence of my soul.
Oh, bless me not too much! one smile a-day
Would stretch my life to immortality²⁵.
Poets, that wrap divinity in tales,
Look here, and give your copies forth of angels!
What blessing can remain?

Sophia. Our marriage.

Arc. Place then some horrors in the way
For me, not you, to pass; the journey's end
Holds out such glories to me, I should think
Hell but a poor degree of suffering for it.—

[*Servant delivers him a paper.*]

What's that? some petition? a letter to me?
'You had a Poiidora.' Ha! that's all!
I th' minute when my vessel's new launch'd forth,
With all my pride, and silken wings about me,
I strike upon a rock: What power can save me?

²⁵ To mortality.] Corrected in 1750.

'You had a Polidora!' There's a name!
Killed with grief, I can so soon forget her.

Serv. She did impose on me this service, Sir;
And while she lives, she says, she'll pray for you.

Arc. She lives!
That's well; and yet 'twere better for my fame
And honour, she were dead. What fate hath plac'd me
Upon this fearful precipice?

Serv. He's troubled.

Arc. I must resolve: My faith is violated
Already; yet, poor loving Polidora
Will pray for me, she says; to think she can,
Renders me hated to myself, and every
Thought's a tormentor; let me then be just.

Sophia. Arcadius!

Arc. That voice prevails again. Oh, Polidora,
Thou must forgive Arcadius; I dare not
Turn rebel to a princess: I shall love
Thy virtue, but a kingdom has a charm
To excuse our frailty. Dearest madam!

Sophia. Now set forward.

Arc. To perfect all our joys!

Enter Macarius and a Bishop.

Mac. I'll fright their glories.

Cass. By what means?

Mac. Observe.

Arc. Our good uncle, welcome!

Sophia. My lord Macarius, we did want your
person;

There's something in our joys wherein you share.

Mac. This you intend your highness' wedding-day?

Sophia. We are going——

Mac. Save your labour;
I've brought a priest to meet you.

Arc. Reverend father!

Sophia. Meet us? Why?

Mac. To tell you that you must not marry.

Cass. Didst thou hear that, Lyfimachus?

Lyfim.

42 THE CORONATION.

Lyfim. And wonder what will follow.

Sophia. We must not marry?

Bishop. Madam, 'tis a rule

First made in Heav'n; and I must needs declare
You and Arcadius must tie no knot
Of man and wife.

Arc. Is my uncle mad?

Sophia. Joy has transported him,
Or age has made him dote: Macarius,
Provoke us not too much; you will presume
Above our mercy.

Mac. I'll discharge my duty,
Could your frown strike me dead.—My lord, you
know

Whose character this is?

Cass. It is Theodosius',
Your Grace's father.

Bishop. I am subscrib'd a witness.

Phil. Upon my life, 'tis his.

Mac. Fear not; I'll cross this match. [*Aside to Cass.*

Cass. I'll bless thee for't.

Arc. Uncle, d'ye know what you do,
Or what we are going to finish? You will not break
The neck of my glorious fortune, now my foot's
I'th' stirrups, and, mounting, throw me o'er the saddle?
I hope you'll let one be a king.—Madam,
'Tis as you say, my uncle is something craz'd,
There's a worm in's brain, but I beseech you par-
don him:

He is not the first of your council, that has talk'd
Idly. D'ye hear, my lord-bishop, I hope you have
more

Religion than to join with him to undo me.

Bishop. Not I, Sir; but I am commanded by oath
and conscience,

To speak truth.

Arc. If your truth should do me
Any harm, I shall never be in charity
With a crozier's staff; look to't!

Sophia.

Sophia. My youngest brother?

Cass. Worse and worse! my brains! [Exit.

Mac. Deliver'd to me an infant with this writing,
To which this reverend father is a witness.

Lyfan. This he whom we so long thought dead,
a child?

Sophia. But what should make my father to trust
him

To your concealment? give abroad his death,
And bury an empty coffin?

Mac. A jealousy he had
Upon Cassander, whose ambitious brain
He fear'd would make no conscience to depose
His son, to make Lyfimachus king of Epire.

Sophia. He made no scruple to expose me then
To any danger?

Mac. He secur'd you, madam,
By an early engagement of your affection
To Lyfimachus, exempt this testimony:
Had he been Arcadius, and my nephew,
I needed not obtrude him on the state;
Your love and marriage had made him king
Without my trouble, and sav'd that ambition.
There was necessity to open now
His birth and title.

Phil. Demetrius alive?

Arc. What riddles are these? Whom do they
talk of?

Omnes. We congratulate your return to life and
honour,

And, as becomes us, with one voice salute you,
Demetrius, king of Epire.

Mac. I am no uncle, Sir: This is your sister;
I should have suffer'd incest, to have kept you
Longer i'th' dark: Love, and be happy both!
My trust is now discharg'd.

Lyfan. And we rejoice.

Arc. But do not mock me, gentlemen;
May I be bold upon your words to say

I am

44 THE CORONATION.

I am prince Theodosius' son?

Mac. The king.

Arc. You'll justify it?

Sister, I'm very glad to see you.

Sophia. I am

To find a brother, and resign my glory.

My triumph is my shame.

[*Exit.*

Enter Cassander.

Cass. Thine ear, Lyfimachus.

Arc. Gentlemen, I owe

Unto your loves as large acknowledgment

As to my birth, for this great honour; and

My study shall be equal to be thought

Worthy of both.

[*Exit Sophia.*

Cass. Thou art turn'd marble.

Lyfim. There will be the less charge for my monument.

Cass. This must not be: Sit fast, young king! [*Exit.*

Lyfan. Your sister, Sir, is gone.

Arc. My sister should have been my bride, That name

Puts me in mind of Polidora; ha!

Lyfander! Philocles! gentlemen!

If you will have me think your hearts allow me

Theodosius' son, oh, quickly snatch some wings,

Express it in your haste to Polidora;

Tell her, what title is new dropt from Heav'n

To make her rich, only created for me;

Give her the ceremony of my queen;

With all the state that may become our bride,

Attend her to this throne. Are you not there?

Yet stay! 'tis too much pride to send for her;

We'll go ourself; no honour is enough

For Polidora, to redeem our fault;

Salute her gently from me, and, upon

Your knee, present her with this diadem!

'Tis our first gift; tell her Demetrius follows

To be her guest, and give himself a servant

To

To her chaste bosom ; bid her stretch her heart
To meet me ! I am lost in joy and wonder ! [*Exeunt.*]

A C T IV.

Enter Cassander, Eubulus, and Soldier.

Cass. **W**HERE's the captain of the castle ?
Sold. He'll attend your honours presently.

Cass. Give him knowledge we expect him.

Sold. I shall, my lord. [*Exit.*]

Cass. He is my creature, (fear not !)
And shall run any course that we propound.

Eub. My lord, I like the substance of your plot,
'Tis promising ; but matters of this consequence
Are not so easily perfect ; and it does
Concern our heads to build upon secure
Principles : Tho' Seleucus, I confess,
Carry a high and daring spirit in him,
'Tis hard to thrust upon the state new settled
Any impostor ; and we know not yet
Whether he'll undertake to play the prince ;
Or, if he should accept it, with what cunning
He can behave himself.

Cass. My lord, affairs
Of such a glorious nature are half finish'd,
When they begin with confidence.

Eub. Admit
He want no art, nor courage, it must rest
Upon the people to receive his title ;
And with what danger their uncertain breath
May flatter ours, Demetrius scarcely warm
In the king's seat, I may suspect.

Cass. That reason
Makes for our part ; for if it be so probable
That young Demetrius should be living, why
May not we work them to believe Leonatus,

46 THE CORONATION.

The eldest son, was by some trick preserv'd,
And now would claim his own? There were two sons,
Who in their father's life we suppos'd dead;
May not we find a circumstance to make
This seem as clear as t' other? Let the vulgar
Be once possess'd, we'll carry Epire from
Demetrius, and the world.

Eub. I could be pleas'd

Enter Poleanus.

To see my son a king.—The captain's here.

Poleanus. I wait your lordship's pleasure.

Cass. We come to visit your late prisoner.
I will not doubt, but you entreat him fairly;
He will deserve it for himself, and you
Be fortunate in any occasion
To have express'd your service.

Poleanus. Sir, the knowledge
Of my honourable lord his father will
Instruct me to behave myself with all
Respects becoming me, to such a son.

Cass. These things will least
Oblige you; but how bears he his restraint?

Poleanus. As one whose soul's above it.

Eub. Patiently?

Poleanus. With contempt rather of the great
command

Which made him prisoner: He will talk sometimes
So strangely to himself!

Eub. He's here.

Enter Seleucus.

Sel. Why was I born to be a subject? 'Tis
Soon answer'd sure; my father was no prince,
That's all: The same ingredients use to make
A man, as active, tho' not royal blood,
Went to my composition, and I
Was gotten with as good a will perhaps,
And my birth cost my mother as much sorrow,

As

As I'd been born an emp'ror.

Cass. While I look
Upon him, something in his face presents
A king indeed.

Eub. He does resemble much
Theodosius too.

Cass. Whose son we would pretend him :
This will advance our plot.

Sel. 'Tis but a name,
And mere opinion, that prefers one man
Above another : I'll imagine then
I am a prince, or some brave thing on earth,
And see what follows. But it must not be
My single voice will carry it ; the name
Of king must be attended with a troop
Of acclamations, on whose airy wings
He mounts, and, once exalted, threatens Heav'n,
And all the stars. How to acquire this noise,
And be the thing I talk of—Men have risen
From a more cheap nobility to empires,
From dark originals, and sordid blood ;
Nay, some that had no fathers, sons o' th' earth,
And flying people, have aspir'd to kingdoms,
Made nations tremble²⁶, nay, have practis'd frowns
To awe the world : Their memory is glorious,
And I would hug them in their shades. But what's
All this to me, that am I know not what,
And less in expectation ?

Poleanus. Are you serious ?

Cass. Will you assist, and run a fate with us ?

Poleanus. Command my life ; I owe it to your favour.

Sel. Arcadius was once as far from king²⁷
As I ; and had we not so cunningly

²⁶ Tremble, any have practis'd frowns.] Amended by Symphon.

²⁷ As far from being

As I] This is true indeed, yet no mighty discovery, nor what
the poets designed him to say : But the true lesson, and what the
place requires absolutely, is this ;

—was as far from king.

Symphon.
Been

48 THE CORONATION.

Been reconcil'd, or one, or both, had gone
To seek our fortunes in another world.—

What's the device now? If my death be next,
The summons shall not make me once look pale.

Cass. Chide your too vain suspicions; we bring
A life, and liberty, with what else can make
Thy ambition happy: Th' hast a glorious flame!
We come t' advance it.

Sel. How?

Cass. Have but a will,
And be what thy own thoughts dare prompt thee to;
A king!

Sel. You do not mock me, gentlemen?
You are my father, Sir.

Eub. This minute shall
Declare it, my Seleucus: Our hearts swell'd
With joy, with duty rather—Oh, my boy!

Sel. What is the mystery?

Poleanus. You must be a king.

Cass. Seleucus, stay! thou'rt too incredulous:
Let not our faith and study to exalt thee
Be so rewarded!

Eub. I pronounce thee king;
Unless thy spirit be turn'd coward, and
Thou faint t' accept it.

Sel. King of what?

Cass. Of Epire.

Sel. Altho' the queen, since she sent me hither,
Were gone to Heaven, I know not how
That title could devolve to me.

Cass. We have
No queen, since he that should have married her
Is prov'd her youngest brother; and now king
In his own title.

Sel. Thank you, gentlemen!
There's hope for me.

Cass. Why, you dare fight with him,
An need be, for the kingdom?

Sel. With Arcadius?

If you'll make stakes, my life against his crown,
I'll fight with him, and you; and your fine son,
And all the courtiers one after another.

Cass. 'Two'not come to that.

Sel. I'm of your lordship's mind :
So, fare you well !

Cass. Yet stay and hear.

Sel. What, that you have betray'd me ?
Do, tell your king ! my life is grown a burden ;
And I'll confess ; and make your souls look pale,
To see how nimble mine shall leap this battlement
Of flesh ; and, dying, laugh at your poor malice.

Omnes. No more ; long live Leonatus, king of Epire !

Sel. Leonatus ? Who's that ?

Cass. Be bold, and be a king ! Our brains have been
Working to raise you to this height. Here are
None but friends : Dare you but call yourself
Leonatus, and but justify with confidence
What we'll proclaim you, if we do not bring
The crown to your head, we will forfeit ours.

Eub. The state is in distraction—Arcadius
Is prov'd a king—there was an elder brother—
If you dare but pronounce you are the same ;
Forget you are my son——

Poleanus. These are no trifles, Sir : All is plotted
T' assure your greatness, if you will be wise,
And take the fair occasion that's presented.

Sel. Arcadius, you say, is lawful king ;
And now, to depose him, you would make me
An elder brother ; is't not so ?

Cass. Most right.

Sel. Nay, right or wrong, if this be your true
meaning——

Omnes. Upon our lives !

Sel. I'll venture mine.

But, with your pardon, whose brain was this ?
From whom took this plot life ?

Eub. My lord Cassander.

Sel. And you are of his mind ? and you ? and think
VOL. IX. D This

This may be done ?

Eub. The destinies sha'n't cross us,
If you have spirit to undertake it.

Sel. Undertake it ?

I am not us'd to compliment : I'll owe
My life to you, my fortunes to your lordship.
Compose me as you please ; and when you've made
Me what you promise, you shall both divide
Me equally. One word, my lord ! I'd rather

[*Apart to Eubulus.*

Live in the prison still, than be a property
T' advance his politick ends.

Eub. Have no suspicion !

Cass. So, so ! I see Demetrius' heels already [*Aside.*
Tripp'd up, and I'll dispatch him out o'th' way ;
Which gone, I can depose this at my leisure,
Being an impostor ; then my son stands fair,
And may piece with the princess. We lose time :
What think you ? If we first surprize the court,
While you command the castle, we shall curb
All opposition.

Eub. Let's proclaim him first.

I have some faction ; the people love me ;
They gain'd to us, we'll fall upon the court.

Cass. Unless Demetrius yield himself, he bleeds.

Sel. Who dares call treason sin, when it succeeds ?

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Sophia and Charilla.

Char. Madam, you are too passionate, and lose
The greatness of your soul, with the expence
Of too much grief, for that which providence
Hath eas'd you of, the burden of a state
Above your tender bearing.

Sophia. Thou'rt a fool,
And canst not reach the spirit of a lady
Born great as I was, and made only less
By a too-cruel destiny ! ' Above
' Our tender bearing ?' What goes richer to

The

The composition of man than ours?
 Our soul's as free, and spacious, our heart's
 As great, our will as large, each thought as active,
 And in this only man more proud than we,
 That would have us less capable of empire:
 But search the stories, and the name of queen
 Shines bright with glory, and some precedents
 Above man's imitation.

Char. I grant it,
 For th' honour of our sex; nor have you, madam,
 By any weakness, forfeited command:
 He that succeeds, in justice was before you,
 And you have gain'd more, in a royal brother,
 Than you could lose by your resign of Epire.

Sophia. This I allow, Charilla, I ha' done;
 'Tis not the thought I am depos'd afflicts me
 (At the same time I feel a joy to know
 My brother living); no, there is another
 Wound in me above cure.

Char. Virtue forbid!

Sophia. Canst find me out a surgeon for that?

Char. For what?

Sophia. My bleeding fame.

Char. Oh, do not injure
 Your own clear innocence.

Sophia. Don't flatter me:
 I have been guilty of an act will make
 All love in women question'd; is not that
 A blot upon a virgin's name? my birth
 Cannot extenuate my shame; I am
 Become the stain of Epire!

Char. It is but
 Your own opinion, madam, which presents
 Something to fright yourself, which cannot be
 In the same shape so horrid to our sense.

Sophia. Thou wouldst, but canst not appear ignorant:
 Did not the court, nay, the whole kingdom, take
 Notice I lov'd Lyfimachus?

Char. True, madam.

52 THE CORONATION.

Sophia. No, I was false!
 Tho' counsell'd by my father to affect him,
 I had my politic ends upon Cassander,
 To be absolute queen, flattering his son with hopes
 Of love and marriage, when that very day
 (I blush to think) I wrong'd Lyfimachus,
 That noble gentleman: But Heav'n punish'd me!
 For tho' to know Demetrius was a blessing,
 Yet who will not impute it my dishonour?

Char. Madam, you yet may recompense Lyfimachus:

If you affect him now, you were not false
 To him, whom then you lov'd not; if you can
 Find any gentle passion in your soul
 To entertain his thought, no doubt his heart,
 Tho' sad, retains a noble will to meet it:
 His love was firm to you, and cannot be
 Unrooted with one storm.

Sophia. He will not sure
 Trust any language from her tongue that mock'd him,
 Altho' my soul doth weep for it, and is punish'd
 To love him above the world.

Enter Lyfimachus.

Char. He's here,
 As Fate would have him reconcil'd: Be free,
 And speak your thoughts.

Lyfim. If, madam, I appear
 Too bold, your charity will sign my pardon:
 I heard you were not well, which made me haste
 To pay the duty of an humble visit.

Sophia. You do not mock me, Sir?

Lyfim. I'm confident
 You think me not so lost to manners, in
 The knowledge of your person, to bring with me
 Such rudeness; I have nothing to present,
 But an heart full of wishes for your health,
 And what else may be added to your happiness.

Sophia. I thought you had been sensible——

Lyfim.

Lyfim. How, madam?

Sophia. A man of understanding: Can you spend
One prayer for me, remembering the dishonour
I have done Lyfimachus?

Lyfim. Nothing can deface
That part of my religion in me, not to pray for you.

Sophia. It is not then impossible you may
Forgive me too: Indeed I have a soul
Is full of penitence, and something else,
If blushing would allow to giv't a name.

Lyfim. What, madam?

Sophia. Love; a love that should redeem
My past offence, and make me white again.

Lyfim. I hope no sadness can possess your thoughts
For me; I am not worthy of this sorrow:
But if you mean it any satisfaction
For what your will hath made me suffer, 'tis
But a strange overflow of charity,
To keep me still alive. Be yourself, madam,
And let no cause of mine be guilty of
This rape upon your eyes; my name's not worth
The least of all your tears.

Sophia. You think 'em counterfeit?

Lyfim. Altho' I may
Suspect a woman's smile hereafter, yet
I would believe their wet eyes; and if this
Be what you promise, for my sake, I have
But one reply.

Sophia. I wait it.

Lyfim. I have now
Another mistress——

Sophia. Stay!

Lyfim. To whom I've made,
Since your revolt from me, a new chaste vow,
Which not the second malice of my fate
Shall violate: And she deserves it, madam,
Even for that wherein you're excellent,
Beauty, in which she shines equal to you;
Her virtue, if she but maintain what now

54 THE CORONATION,

She is mistress of, beyond all competition,
 So rich it cannot know to be improv'd,
 At least in my esteem: I may offend,
 But truth shall justify I have not flatter'd her.
 I beg your pardon, and to leave my duty
 Upon your hand. All that is good flow in you! [*Exit.*]

Sophia. Did he not say, Charilla, that he had
 Another mistress?

Char. Such a sound, methought,
 Came from him.

Sophia. Let's remove! here's too much air;
 The sad note multiplies.

Char. Take courage, madam,
 And my advice. He has another mistress?
 If he have twenty, be you wise, and cross him
 With entertaining twice as many servants;
 And when he sees your humour, he'll return
 And sue for any livery. Grieve for this?

Sophia. It must be she; 'tis Polidora has
 Taken his heart; she live my rival?
 How does the thought inflame me?

Char. Polidora?

Sophia. And yet she does but justly, and he too;
 I would have robb'd her of Arcadius' heart,
 And they will both have this revenge on me.
 But something will rebel. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Demetrius, Philocles, and Lysander.

Dem. The house is desolate; none comes forth to
 meet us;

She's slow to entertain us. Philocles,
 I prithee tell me, did she wear no cloud
 Upon her brow? was't freely that she said
 We should be welcome?

Phil. To my apprehension;
 Yet 'tis my wonder she appears not.

Lysan. She,
 Nor any other. Sure there's some conceit
 T'excuse it.

Dem.

THE CORONATION. 55

Dem. Stay! who's this? Observe what follows.

Phil. Fortune? some mask to entertain you, Sir.

Enter Fortune crown'd, attended with Youth, Health, and Pleasure.

Fort. Not yet? What silence doth inhabit here?
No preparation to bid Fortune welcome?
Fortune, the genius of the world? Have we
Descended from our pride and state, to come
So far, attended with our darlings, Youth,
Pleasure, and Health, to be neglected thus?
Sure this is not the place. Call hither Fame!

Enter Fame.

Fame. What would great Fortune?

Fort. Know

Who dwells here.

Fame. Once more I report, great queen,
This is the house of Love.

Fort. It cannot be;

This place has too much shade, and looks as if
It had been quite forgotten of the spring
And sun-beams: Love affects society
And heat; here all is cold as the airs of winter²³;
No harmony, to catch the busy ear
Of passengers; no object of delight,
To take the wandring eyes; no song, no groan
Of lovers, no complaint of willow garlands;
Love has a beacon upon his palace-top,
Of flaming hearts, to call the weary pilgrim
To rest, and dwell with him; I see no fire
To threaten, or to warm: Can Love dwell here?

Fame. If there be noble Love upon the world,
Trust Fame, and find it here.

Fort. Make good your boast,
And bring him to us.

Dem. What does mean all this?

²³ Here all is cold as th' hairs of winter.] The amendment in the text was made by Theobald.

56 THE CORONATION.

Lyfan. I told you, Sir, we should have some device.

Enter Love.

There's Cupid now! that little gentleman
Has troubled every masque at court this seven year.

Dem. No more.

Love. Welcome to Love! how much you honour
me!

It had become me, that, upon your summons,
I should have waited upon mighty Fortune;
But since you have vouchsaf'd to visit me,
All the delights Love can invent shall flow
To entertain you. Music, thro' the air [*Music plays.*
Shoot your enticing harmony!

Fort. We came
To dance and revel with you.

Love. I am poor
In my ambition, and want thought to reach
How much you honour Love.

[*Dance.*

Enter Honour.

Hon. What intrusion's this?
Whom do you seek here?

Love. 'Tis Honour.

Fort. He's my servant.

Love. Fortune is come to visit us.

Hon. And has
Corrupted Love! Is this thy faith to her,
On whom we both wait, to betray her thus
To Fortune's triumph? Take her giddy wheel,
And be no more companion to Honour:
I blush to know thee! Who'll believe there can
Be truth in Love hereafter?

Love. I have found
My eyes, and see my shame, and with it this
Proud forcerefs, from whom, and all her charms,
I fly again to Honour: Be my guard!
Without thee I am lost, and cannot boast
The merit of a name.

[*Exit Honour.*

Fort.

Fort. Despis'd? I shall
Remember this affront.

Dem. What moral's this? [Exeunt Masquers.

Re-enter Honour, with the crown upon a mourning cushion.
What melancholy object strikes a sudden
Chillness thro' all my veins, and turns me ice?
It is the same I sent, the very same,
As the first pledge of her ensuing greatness;
Why in this mourning liv'ry, if she live
To whom I sent it? Ha! what shape of sorrow?

Enter Polidora, in mourning.

It is not Polidora! she was fair
Enough, and wanted not the setting off
With such a black: If thou be'st Polidora,
Why mourns my love? It neither does become
Thy fortune, nor my joys.

Polid. But it becomes
My griefs; this habit fits a funeral,
And it were sin, my lord, not to lament
A friend new dead.

Dem. And I yet living? Can
A sorrow enter but upon thy garment,
Or discomplexion thy attire, whilst I
Enjoy a life for thee? Who can deserve,
Weigh'd with thy living comforts, but a piece
Of all this ceremony? Give him a name.

Polid. He was Arcadius.

Dem. Arcadius?

Polid. A gentleman that lov'd me dearly once,
And does compel these poor and fruitless drops,
Which willingly would fall upon his hearse,
T'embalm him twice.

Dem. And are you sure he's dead?

Polid. As sure as you are living, Sir; and yet
I did not close his eyes; but he is dead,
And I shall never see the same Arcadius.
He was a man so rich in all that's good,

(At

58 THE CORONATION;

(At least I thought him so) so perfect in
The rules of honour, whom alone to imitate
Were glory in a prince : Nature herself,
'Till his creation, wrought imperfectly,
As she had made but trial of the rest,
To mould him excellent ²⁹.

Dem. And is he dead?

Come, shame him not with praises ; recollect
Thy scatter'd hopes, and let me tell my best
And dearest Polidora, that he lives,
Still lives to honour thee !

Polid. Lives ? where ?

Dem. Look here ;

Am not I worth your knowledge ?

Polid. And my duty ;

You are Demetrius, king of Epire, Sir,
I could not easily mistake him so
To whom I gave my heart.

Dem. Mine is not chang'd,
But still hath fed upon thy memory :
These honours and additions of state
Are lent me for thy sake. Be not so strange !
Let me not lose my entertainment, now
I am improv'd, and rais'd unto the height
Beneath which I did blush to ask thy love !

Polid. Give me your pardon, Sir ! Arcadius,
At our last meeting, without argument
To move him, more than his affection to me,
Vow'd he did love me, love me above all women,
And to confirm his heart was truly mine,
He wish'd—I tremble to remember it—
When he forfook his Polidora's love,

²⁹ *He was a man, &c.]* Dryden has a passage similar to this in
All for Love.

' So perfect, that the very gods who form'd you wonder'd
' At their own skill, and cried, ' A lucky hit
' Hath mended our design ! ' Their envy hinder'd,
' Or you had been immortal, and a pattern,
' When Heaven would work for ostentation sake,
' To copy out again.'

That Heaven might kill his happiness on earth :
Was not this nobly said ? Did not this promise
A truth to shame the turtle's ?

Dem. And his heart
Is still the same, and I thy constant lover.

Polid. Give me your leave, I pray ! I would not say
Arcadius was perjur'd ; but the same day,
Forgetting all his promises and oaths,
While yet they hung upon his lips, forsook me,
(D'ye not remember this too ?) gave his faith
From me, transported with the noise of greatness,
And would be married to a kingdom.

Dem. But
Heaven permitted not I should dispose
What was ordain'd for thee.

Polid. It was not virtue
In him ; for sure he found no check, no sting,
In his own bosom, but gave freely all
The reins to blind ambition.

Dem. I am wounded !
The thought of thee, i' th' throng of all my joys,
Like poison pour'd in Nectar, turns me frantick :
Dear, if Arcadius have made a fault,
Let not Demetrius be punish'd for't !
He pleads, that ever will be constant to thee.

Polid. Shall I believe man's flatteries again,
Lose my sweet rest, and peace of thought again ?
Be drawn by you from the straight paths of virtue
Into the maze of love ?

Dem. I see compassion in thy eye, that chides me :
If I have either soul, but what's contain'd
Within these words, or if one syllable
Of their full force be not made good by me,
May all relenting thoughts in you take end,
And thy disdain be doubled ! From thy pardon,
I'll count my Coronation ; and that hour
Fix with a rubrick in my calendar ³⁰,

³⁰ Fix with a rubrick in my calendar.] i. e. Consider it as a red-letter day.

60 THE CORONATION.

As an auspicious time to entertain
Affairs of weight with princes. Think who now
Entreats thy mercy! Come, thou shalt be kind,
And divide titles with me.

Polid. Hear me, Sir:

I lov'd you once for virtue, and have not
A thought so much unguarded, as to be
Won from my truth and innocence, with any
Motives of state to affect you.
Your bright temptation mourns while it stays here,
Nor can the triumph of glory, which made you
Forget me so, court my opinion back.
Were you no king, I should be sooner drawn
Again to love you; but 'tis now too late;
A low obedience shall become me best.
May all the joys I want
Still wait on you! If time hereafter tell you,
That sorrow for your fault hath struck me dead,
May one soft tear, dropt from your eye in pity,
Bedew my hearse, and I shall sleep securely!
I have but one word more: For goodness' sake,
For your own honour, Sir, correct your passion
To her you shall love next, and I forgive you. [*Exit.*]

Dem. Her heart is frozen up, nor can warm prayers
Thaw it to any softness.

Phil. I'll fetch her, Sir, again.

Dem. Persuade her not.

Phil. You give your passion too much leave to
triumph.

Seek in another what she denies.

Enter Macarius.

Mac. Where is the king? Oh, Sir, you are undone;
A dangerous treason is afoot.

Dem. What treason?

Mac. Cassander and Eubulus have proclaim'd
Another king, whom they pretend to be
Leonatus your elder brother, he that was
But this morning prisoner in the castle.

Dem.

THE CORONATION. 61

Dem. Ha!

Mac. The easy Epirotes

Gather in multitudes t' advance his title;
They have seiz'd upon the court. Secure your person,
Whilst we raise power to curb this insurrection.

Ant. Lose no time then.

Dem. We will not arm one man.

Speak it again! have I a brother living,
And must be no king?

Mac. What means your Grace?

Dem. This news doth speak me happy; it exalts
My heart, and makes me capable of more
Than twenty kingdoms!

Phil. Will you not, Sir, stand
Upon your guard?

Dem. I'll stand upon my honour:
Mercy relieves me.

Lyfan. Will you lose the kingdom?

Dem. The world's too poor to bribe me. Leave
me all,

Lest you extenuate my fame, and I
Be thought to have redeem'd it by your counsel!
You shall not share one scruple in the honour.
Titles may set a gloss upon our name,
But virtue only is the soul of fame.

Mac. He's strangely possess'd, gentlemen. [*Exe.*

A C T V.

Enter Philocles and Lyfander.

Phil. **H**ERE's a strange turn, Lyfander.

Lyfan. 'Tis a kingdom
Easily purchas'd: Who will trust the faith
Of multitudes?

Phil. It was his fault, that would
So tamely give his title to their mercy.

The

62 THE CORONATION.

The new king has possession.

Lyfan. And is like
To keep it. We're alone; what dost think of
This innovation? Is it not a fine jig?
A precious cunning in the late protector
To shuffle a new prince into the state?

Phil. I know not how they've shuffled, but, my
head on't,
A false card's turn'd up trump: But, fates look to't!

Enter Cassander and Eubulus.

Eub. Does he not carry't bravely?

Cass. Excellently.—

Philocles! *Lyfander!*

Phil. Lyfan. Your lordship's servants!

Cass. Are we not bound to Heaven, for multiplying
These blessings on the kingdom³¹?

Phil. Heaven alone
Works miracles, my lord.

Lyfan. I think your lordship had
As little hope once to see these princes revive.

Cass. Here we
Must place our thanks, next Providence, for pre-
serving
So dear a pledge³².

Enter Leonatus, attended.

Eub. The king!

Leo. It is our pleasure
The number of our guard be doubled. Give
A largess to the soldiers; but dismiss not

³¹ *Are we not bound to Heaven.*] The retorting of these very words by Philocles in the next scene upon *Cassander*, led Mr. Seward, Mr. Theobald, and myself, to the assurance of their belonging to *Cassander* here, and accordingly I have placed his name before them.

Sympson.

³² *Phil. Here we must place.*] I once imagined that this was a speech with action, and might easily be understood, by supposing *Philocles* to point to Eubulus; but I believe Mr. Seward has more happily conjectured it ought to belong to *Cassander*.

Sympson.

The

The troops 'till we command.

Cass. May it please——

Leo. It will not please us otherwise, my lord :

We've tried your faith !

Eub. Does he not speak with confidence ?

Leo. My lords and gentlemen, to whose faith we
must

Owe (next to Heaven) our fortune and our safety,

After a tedious eclipse, the day

Is bright, and we invested in those honours

Our blood and birth did challenge.

Cass. May no time

Be register'd in our annals, that shall mention

One that had life t'oppose your sacred person !

Leo. Let them, whose title's forg'd and flaw'd,
suspect

Their state's security ! Our right to Epire

Heaven is oblig'd to prosper : Treason has

No face so black to fright it. All my cares

Level to this, that I may worthily ³³

Manage the province, and advance the honour

Of our dear country : And, be confident,

If an expence of blood may give addition

Of any happiness to you, I shall

Offer my heart the sacrifice, and rejoice

To make myself a ghost, to have inscrib'd

Upon my marble but whose cause I died for.

Eub. May Heaven avert such danger !

Cass. Excellent prince,

In whom we see the copy of his father !

None but the son of Theodosius

Could have spoke thus.

³³ ———worthily

Manage the province, and advance the honour

Of our dear country.] To manage the province of our dear
country, and advance the honour of our dear country, seems a little
inaccurate : Perhaps we should read,

—————worthily

*Manage this province ; or, my province,
i. e. The charge I have undertook, &c.*

Symphon.

Leo.

Leo. You're pleas'd t'interpret well.
 Yet, give me leave to say in my own justice,
 I've but express'd the promptness of my soul
 To serve you all; but 'tis not empty wishes
 Can satisfy our mighty charge, a weight
 Would make an Atlas double. A king's name
 Doth sound harmoniously to men at distance;
 And those, who cannot penetrate beyond
 The bark and out-skin of a commonwealth
 Or state, have eyes but ravish'd with the ceremony
 That must attend a prince, and understand not
 What cares allay the glories of a crown:
 But good kings find and feel the contrary.
 You've tried, my lord, the burden; and can tell
 It would require a pilot of more years
 To steer this kingdom, now impos'd on me
 By justice of my birth.

Cass. I wish not life
 But to partake those happy days which must
 Succeed these fair proceedings: We are blest!
 But, Sir, be sparing to yourself! we shall
 Hazard our joys in you too soon; the burden
 Of state-affairs impose upon your council.
 'Tis fitter that we waste our lives, than you
 Call age too soon upon you with the trouble
 And cares that threaten such an undertaking:
 Preserve your youth!

Leo. And chuse you our protector?
 Is't that you would conclude, my lord? We will
 Deserve our subjects' faith for our own sake,
 Not sit an idle gazer at the helm.

Enter Messenger.

Phil. How! observ'd you that? Mark how Cas-
 sander's planet-struck.

Eub. He might have look'd more calmly for all that.
 I begin to fear; but do not yet seem troubled ³⁴.

Leo. With what news travels his haste? I must secure

³⁴ *Eub.* *He might have look'd.]* If the reader will consider this
 answer,

Myself betimes; not be a king in jest,
And wear my crown a tenant to their breath.

Cass. Demetrius, Sir, your brother,
With other traitors that oppose your claims,
Are fled to th' castle of Nestorius,
And fortify —

Mess. I said not so, my lord.

Cass. I'll have it thought so; hence! [*Ex. Mess.*]

Leo. Plant force to batter
The walls; and in their ruin bring us word
They live not.

Eub. Good Sir, hear me!

Cass. Let it work.

Were Demetrius dead, we easily might uncrown
This sworn impostor, and my son be fair
To piece with young Sophia, who, I hear,
Repents her late affront.

Eub. Their lives may do
You service; let not blood stain your beginnings!
The people, not yet warm in their allegiance,
May think it worth their tumult to revenge it,
With hazard of yourself.

Leo. Who dares but think it?
Yet, offer first our mercy: If they yield,
Demetrius must not live—My lord, your counsel:
What if he were in Heaven?

Cass. You have my
Consent.—You shall not stay long after him. [*Aside.*]

Leo. Sophia's not my sister: To prevent all
That may endanger us, we'll marry her;
That done, no matter tho' we stand discover'd;
For in her title then we're king of Epire,
Without dispute.

answer, he will find that *Lyfander*, and not *Eubulus*, should be pre-
fix'd before it. *Symphon.*

'If the reader will consider this answer, he will find,' that *Lyfan-*
der could not speak it, nor any but a partisan in the plot for elevating
Seleucus. *Eubulus* means by it to continue the deceit on *Cassander*,
till he procures his dismissal to the castle of Nestorius.

66 THE CORONATION.

Cass. Hum!—In my judgment, Sir,
That wo'not do so well.

Leo. What's your opinion?

Cass. He countermines my plot: Are you so cunning?

Leo. What's that you mutter, Sir?

Cass. I mutter, Sir?

Leo. Best say I am no king, but some impostor
Rais'd up to gull the state.

Cass. Very fine! To have said within
Few hours you'd been no king, nor like to be,
Was not i'th' compass of high-treason, I take it.

Eub. Restrain your anger! the king's mov'd;
speak not.

Cass. I will speak louder: Do I not know him?
That self-same hand that rais'd him to the throne
Shall pluck him from it! Is this my reward?

Leo. Our guard! To prison with him!

Cass. Me to prison?

Leo. Off with his head!

Cass. My head?

Eub. Vouchsafe to hear me,
Great Sir!

Leo. How dares he be so insolent³⁵?

Cass. I ha' wrought myself into a fine condition!
D'ye know me, gentlemen?

Phil. Very well, my lord:

'How are we bound to Heaven for multiplying
'These blessings on the kingdom.'

Leo. We allow it.

Eub. Counsel did never blast a prince's ear.

*Leo.** Convey him to the sanctuary of rebels,
Nestorius' house, where our proud brother has
Enscons'd himself! they'll entertain him lovingly;
He'll be a good addition to the traitors.
Obey me, or you die for't!—What are kings,
When subjects dare affront 'em?

³⁵ *Cas.* *How dares he be so insolent?*] 'Tis possible that this line belongs to *Cassander*; but I think more probable it should be *Leonatus's*, and accordingly I have prefixed his name to it. *Sympson.*

Cass. I shall vex
Thy soul for this.

Leo. Away with him! When kings
Frown, let offenders tremble!—This flows not
From any cruelty in my nature, but
The fate of an usurper: He that will
Be confirm'd great without just title to it
Must lose compassion; know what's good, not do it.

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Polidora and her Servant.

Serv. Madam, the princess Sophia!

Polid. I attend her highness.

Enter Sophia.

How much your Grace honours your humble servant!

Sophia. I hope my brother's well.

Polid. I hope so too, madam.

Sophia. Do you but hope? He came to be your
guest.

Polid. We are all his, whilst he is pleas'd to honour
This poor roof with his royal presence, madam.

Sophia. I came to ask your pardon, Polidora.

Polid. You never, madam, trespass'd upon me;
Wrong not your goodness.

Sophia. I can be but penitent,
Unless you point me out some other way
To satisfy.

Polid. Dear madam, do not mock me!

Sophia. There is no injury, like that to love;
I find it now in my own sufferings:
But tho' I would have robb'd thee of Arcadius,
Heaven knew a way to reconcile your hearts,
And punish'd me in those joys you have found,
I read the story of my loss of honour,
Yet can rejoice, and heartily, that you
Have met your own again.

Polid. Whom do you mean?

Sophia. My brother.

Polid. He's found to himself and honour:

68 THE CORONATION.

He is my king; and tho' I must acknowledge
He was the glory of my thoughts, and I
Lov'd him, as you did, madam, with desire
To be made his, reason and duty since
Form'd me to other knowledge, and I now
Look on him without any wish of more
Than to be call'd his subject.

Sophia. Has he made
Himself less capable, by being king?

Polid. Of what?

Sophia. Of your affection?

Polid. With your pardon, madam,
Love, in that sense you mean, left Polidora
When he forsook Arcadius: I disclaim
All ties between us, more than what the name
Of king must challenge from my obedience.

Sophia [*aside*]. This does confirm my jealousy:
My heart!—

For my sake, madam, has he lost his value?

Polid. Let me beseech your Grace, I may have leave
To answer in some other cause, or person!
This argument but opens a sad wound
To make it bleed afresh; we may change this
Discourse: I would elect some subject whose
Praises may more delight your ear than this
Can mine. Let's talk of young Lyfimachus!

Sophia. Ha! my presaging fears!

Polid. How does your Grace?

Sophia. Well. You were talking of Lyfimachus;
Pray give me your opinion of him.

Polid. Mine?

It will be much short of his worth: I think him
A gentleman so perfect in all goodness,
That if there be one in the world deserves
The best of women, Heaven created him
To make her happy.

Sophia. You've in a little, madam,
Express'd a volume of mankind, a miracle.
But all have not the same degree of faith:

He

He is but young——

Polid. What mistress would desire
Her servant old? He has both spring to please
Her eye, and summer to return a harvest.

Sophia. He's black——

Polid. He sets a beauty off more rich,
And she that's fair will love him: Faint complexions
Betray effeminate minds, and love of change;
Two beauties in a bed compound few men;
He's not so fair to counterfeit a woman,
Nor yet so black but blushes may betray
His modesty.

Sophia. His proportion exceeds not——

Polid. That praises him: And a well-compacted
frame

Speaks temper, and sweet flow of elements;
Vast buildings are more oft for show than use:
I would not have my eyes put to the travel
Of many acres, ere I could examine
A man from head to foot; he has no great,
But he may boast an elegant, composition.

Sophia. I'll hear no more! You have so far out-
done

My injuries to you, that I call back
My penitence; and must tell Polidora,
This revenge ill becomes her. Am I thought
So lost in soul to hear, and forgive this?
In what shade do I live? or shall I think
I have not, at the lowest, enough merit,
Setting aside my birth, to poize with yours?
Forgive, my modest thoughts, if I rise up
My own defence, and tell this unjust lady,
So great a winter hath not frozen yet
My cheek, but there is something Nature planted
That carries as much bloom, and spring upon't,
As yours! What flame is in your eye, but may
Find competition here? (forgive again,
My virgin honour!) what is in your lip
To tice th' enamour'd soul to dwell with more.

70 THE CORONATION.

Ambition, than the yet-unwither'd blush
That speaks the innocence of mine? Oh, brother!

Enter Demetrius.

Dem. I'll talk with you anon. My Polidora!
Allow thy patience 'till my breath recover,
Which now comes laden with the richest news
Thy ear was ever blest with.

Sophia. Both your looks
And voice express some welcome accident.

Dem. Guess what in wish could make me fortunate,
And Heaven hath dropt that on Demetrius.

Sophia. What means this extasy?

Dem. 'Twere sin to busy
Thy thoughts upon't; I'll tell thee.—That I could
Retain some part! it is too wide a joy
To be express'd so soon; and yet it falls
In a few syllables—thou wo't scarce believe me!
I am no king.

Sophia. How's that?

Polid. Good Heaven forbid!

Dem. Forbid? Heaven has reliev'd me with a mercy
I knew not how to ask: I have, they say,
An elder brother living, crown'd already:
I only keep my name Demetrius,
Without desire of more addition
Than to return thy servant.

Polid. You amaze me!

Can you rejoice to be depos'd?

Dem. It but

Translates me to a fairer and better kingdom
In Polidora.

Polid. Me?

Dem. Did you not say,
Were I no king, you could be drawn to love me
Again? That was consented to in Heaven.
A kingdom first betray'd my ambitious soul
To forget thee: That, and the flattering glories;
How willingly Demetrius does resign

The

THE CORONATION. 71

The angels know ! Thus naked, without titles,
I throw me on thy charity ; and shall
Boast greater empire to be thine again, than
To wear the triumphs of the world upon me.

Enter Macarius.

Mac. Be not so careless of yourself ! the people
Gather in multitudes to your protection,
Offering their lives and fortunes, if they may
But see you, Sir, and hear you speak to 'em :
Accept their duties, and in time prevent
Your ruin.

Sophia. Be not desperate ; 'tis counsel——

Dem. You trouble me with noise !—Speak, Polidora !

Polid. For your own sake, preserve yourself ! My
fears

Distract my reason.

Enter Antigonus.

Ant. Lord Lyfimachus,

With something that concerns your safety, is
Fled hither, and desires a present hearing.

Mac. His soul is honest : Be not, Sir, a madman,
And for a lady give up all our freedoms ! [Exit.]

Polid. I will say any thing, hear Lyfimachus.

Sophia. Dear brother, hear him !

Enter Lyfimachus.

Lyfim. Sir, I come to yield

Myself your prisoner : If my father have
Rais'd an impostor to supplant your title,
(Which I suspect, and inwardly do bleed for)
I shall not only, by the tender of
Myself, declare my innocence, but either,
By my unworthy life, secure your person,
Or by what death you shall impose, reward
The unexpected treason.

Sophia. Brave young man !

72 THE CORONATION.

Did you not hear him, brother?

Lyfim. I'm not minded!

Polid. Be witness, madam, I resign my heart!

It never was another's.—You declare

Too great a satisfaction.—I hope

This will destroy your jealousy.—

Remember now your danger!

Dem. I despise it!

What fate dares injure me?

Lyfim. Yet hear me, Sir!

Sophia. Forgive me, Polidora! you are happy,

My hopes are remov'd further: I had thought

Lyfimachus had meant you for his mistress,

'Tis misery to feed, and not know where

To place my jealousy.

Enter Macarius.

Mac. Now 'tis too late!

You may be deaf, until the cannon make

You find your sense; we are shut up now by

A troop of horse: Thank yourself!

Polid. They will

Admit conditions——

Sophia. And allow us quarter?

[*A shout within.*

Polid. We are all lost!

Dem. Be comforted!

Enter Antigonus.

Ant. News!

My lord Cassander's sent by the new king

To bear us company.

Dem. Not as prisoner?

Ant. It does appear no otherwise. The soldiers
Declare how much they love him, by their noise
Of scorn and joy to see him so rewarded.

Dem. It cannot be!

Ant. You'll find it presently:

He curses the new king, talks treason 'gainst him

As

As nimble as he were in's shirt³⁶. He's here.

Enter Cassander.

Cass. Oh, let me beg until my knees take root
I'th' earth. Sir, can you pardon me?

Dem. For what?

Cass. For treason, desperate, most malicious treason:
I have undone you, Sir!

Dem. It does appear
You had a will.

Cass. I'll make you all the recompense I can;
But ere you kill me, hear me! Know the man
Whom I, to serve my unjust ends, advanc'd
T'your throne, is an impostor, a mere counterfeit,
Eubulus' son. [Exit Ant.]

Dem. It is not then our brother?

Cass. An insolent usurper, proud and bloody
Seleucus. Is no leprosy upon me?
There is not punishment enough in nature
To quit my horrid act; I have not in
My stock of blood, to satisfy with weeping;
Nor could my soul, tho' melted to a flood
Within me, gush out tears to wash my stain off.

Dem. How! an impostor? What will become on's
now?

We're at his mercy.

Cass. Sir, the peoples' hearts
Will come to their own dwelling, when they see
I dare accuse myself, and suffer for it.
Have courage then, young king! thy fate cannot
Be long compell'd,

Dem. Rise, our misfortune
Carries this good; altho' it lose our hopes,
It makes you friend with Virtue; We'll expect
What Providence will do,

Cass. You are too merciful.

³⁶ *As nimble as he were in's shirt*] This may allude to Hieronimo's appearing *in his shirt* on the stage, in the Spanish Tragedy, and inveighing against the murderer of his son.

74 THE CORONATION.

Lyfim. Our duties shall beg Heaven still to preserve you.

Enter Antigonus.

Ant. Our enemy desires some parley, Sir.

Lyfim. 'Tis not amiss to hear their proposition.

Polid. I'll wait upon you.

Dem. Thou art my angel,
And canst best instruct me!—Boldly present ourselves!
You'll with's, Cassander?

Cass. And in death be blest
To find your charity.

[*Exit.*

Sophia. Lysimachus!

Lyfim. Madam?

Sophia. They will not miss your presence, the small
time

Is spent in asking of a question.

Lyfim. I wait your pleasure.

Sophia. Sir, I have a suit to you.

Lyfim. To me? it must be granted.

Sophia. If you

Have cancelled your kind opinion of me,
Deny me not to know who hath succeeded
Sophia in your heart! I beg the name
Of your new mistress.

Lyfim. You shall know her, madam,
If but these tumults cease, and fate allow us
To see the court again. I hope you'll bring
No mutiny against her. But this is
No time to talk of love: Let me attend you!

Sophia. I must expect, 'till you are pleas'd to satisfy
My poor request. Conduct me at your pleasure.

[*Exeunt,*

*Enter Leonatus, Eubulus, Bishop, Lyfander, and
Philocles.*

Leo. They are too slow! dispatch new messengers,
T' entreat 'em fairly hither. I am extasied!
Were you witness for me too? Is't possible

I am

I am what this affirms, true Leonatus?
And were you not my father? was I given
In trust to you an infant?

Eub. 'Tis a truth

Our soul's bound to acknowledge: You supplied
The absence and opinion of my son,
Who died but to make you my greater care.
I knew not of Demetrius; but suppos'd
Him dead indeed, as Epire thought you were.
Your father's character doth want no testimony,
Which, but compar'd with what concerns Demetrius,
Will prove itself king Theodosius' act,
Your royal father.

Bishop. I am subscrib'd to both his legacies,
By oath oblig'd to secrecy, until
Thus fairly summon'd to reveal the trust.

Eub. Cassander had no thought you would prove
thus,

To whose policy I gave this aim, altho'
He wrought you up to serve but as his engine
To batter young Demetrius: For it was
Your father's prudent jealousy that made him
Give out your early deaths, as if his soul
Prophefied his own first, and fear'd to leave
Either of you to the unsafe protection
Of one, whose study would be to supplant
Your right, and make himself the king of Epire.

Bishop. Your sister, fair Sophia, in your father's
Life, was design'd to marry with Lysimachus;
That guarded her; altho' she us'd some art
To quit her pupillage, and being absolute,
Declar'd love to Demetrius, which enforc'd
Macarius to discover first your brother.

Leo. No more! lest you destroy again Leonatus,
With wonder of his fate! Are they not come yet?—
Something it was I felt within me envy
Of young Demetrius' fortune; there were seeds
Scatter'd upon my heart, that made it swell
With thought of empire: Princes I see cannot

76 THE CORONATION.

Be totally eclips'd. But wherefore stays
Demetrius and Sophia, at whose names
A gentle spirit walk'd upon my blood³⁷?

*Enter Demetrius, Polidora, Sophia, Macarius, Cassander,
and Lyfimachus.*

Eub. They're here.

Leo. Then thus I fly into their bosoms!
Nature has rectified in me, Demetrius,
The wandrings of ambition. Our dear sister,
You are amaz'd; I did expect it: Read
Assurance there! the day is big with wonder.

Mac. What means all this?

Leo. Lyfimachus, be dear to us!
Cassander, you are welcome too.

Cass. Not I;
I do not look for't; all this sha'not bribe
My conscience to your faction, and make
Me false again. Seleucus is no son
Of Theodosius: My dear countrymen,
Correct your erring duties, and to that,
Your lawful king, prostrate yourselves! Demetrius
Doth challenge all your knees.

Dem. All love and duty
Flow from me to my royal king, and brother!
I am confirm'd.

³⁷ ——— at whose names

A gentle spirit walk'd upon my blood?] This would imply, that
before he knew his relation to his brother and sister, he had often
had, by secret instinct, a love for them: But as no hint of this ap-
pears in any thing he before says or does, I prefer the present tense:

————— walks upon my blood?

This expression is noble, and seems taken from Genesis. *The spirit
of God mov'd upon the face of the waters.* Seward.

I conceive, that the Poet designed here to express, how dormant
that affection which ought to be toward brethren, though strangers
to each other, had lain in Seleucus; and upon this account I would
suppose, that a word of a stronger import may yet bid fairer for the
true one: I read thus,

A gentle spirit wakes upon my blood?

Symson.

We have retained the old reading, as thinking it far preferable to
either of the variations.

Cass.

Cass. You are too credulous!

What can betray your faith so much?

Leo. Sophia, you appear sad, as if your will
Gave no consent to this day's happiness.

Sophia. No joy exceeds Sophia's for yourself.

Lyfim. With your pardon, Sir, I apprehend
A cause that makes her troubled: She desires
To know what other mistress, since her late
Unkindness, I have chosen to direct
My faith and service.

Leo. Another mistress?

Lyfim. Yes, Sir.

Leo. And does our sister love Lyfimachus?

Sophia. Here's something would confess.

Leo. He must not dare
To affront Sophia.

Cass. How my shame confounds me!
I beg your justice, without pity, on
My age.

Leo. Your penance shall be, to be faithful
To our state hereafter.

Omnes. May you live long
And happy, Leonatus, king of Epire!

Leo. But where's your other mistress?

Lyfim. Even here, Sir.

Leo. Our sister? is this another mistress, Sir?

Lyfim. It holds
To prove my thoughts were so: When she began
Her sorrow for neglecting me, that sweetness
Deserv'd I should esteem her another mistress
Than when she cruelly forsook Lyfimachus.
Your pardon, madam! and receive a heart
Proud with my first devotions to serve you!

Sophia. In this I'm crown'd again! now mine for
ever!

Leo. You have deceiv'd her happily.
Joy to you both!

Dem. We're ripe for the same wishes;
Polidora's part of me.

Polid.

78 THE CORONATION.

Polid. He all my blessing.

Leo. Heav'n pour full joys upon you!

Mac. We're all blest:

There wants but one to fill your arms.

Leo. My mistress

And wife shall be my country, to which I
Was in my birth contracted: Your love since
Hath play'd the priest to perfect what was ceremony.
Tho' kingdoms by just titles prove our own,
The subjects' hearts do best secure a crown.

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

E P I L O G U E.

THERE is no Coronation to-day,
Unless your gentle votes do crown our play.
If smiles appear within each lady's eye,
Which are the leading stars in this fair sky,
Our solemn day sets glorious; for then
We hope, by their soft influence, the men
Will grace what they first shin'd on: Make't appear,
(Both) how we please, and bless our covetous ear
With your applause; more welcome than the bells
Upon a triumph, bonfires, or what else
Can speak a Coronation! And tho' I
Were late depos'd, and spoil'd of majesty,
By the kind aid of your hands, gentlemen,
I quickly may be crown'd a queen again.

T H E
S E A - V O Y A G E.
A C O M E D Y.

This Play is in the Commendatory Verses by Gardiner ascribed to Fletcher alone, and was first printed in the folio of 1647. It was revived by Tom Durfey, with alterations, in the year 1686, and exhibited at the Theatre-Royal, under the title of The Commonwealth of Women, and at the same time printed in quarto.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Albert, *a French pirate, in love with Aminta.*

Tibalt du Pont, *a merry gentleman, friend to Albert.*

Master of the ship, *an honest merry man.*

Lamure, *an usuring merchant.*

Franville, *a vainglorious gallant.*

Morillat, *a shallow-brained gentleman.*

Boatswain, *an honest man.*

Sebastian, *a noble gentleman of Portugal, husband to Rosellia.*

Nicusa, *nephew to Sebastian; both cast upon a desert island.*

Raymond, *brother to Aminta.*

Surgeon.

Sailors.

W O M E N.

Aminta, *mistress to Albert, a noble French virgin.*

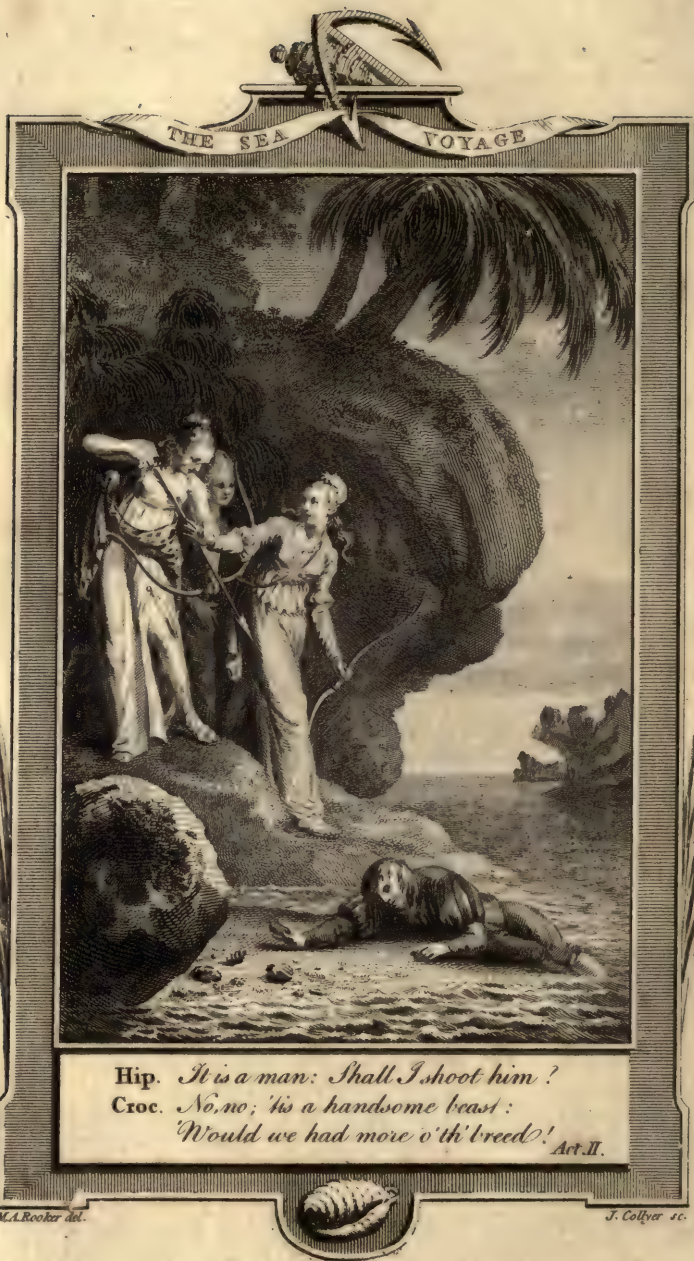
Rosellia, *governess of the Amazonian Portugals.*

Clarinda, *daughter to Rosellia, in love with Albert.*

Hippolita,	} <i>three ladies, members of the female com-</i>	
Crocale,		} <i>monwealth.</i>
Juletta,		

The Scene, first at SEA, then in the DESERT ISLANDS.





Hip. *It is a man: Shall I shoot him?*
Croc. *No, no; 'tis a handsome beast:
'Would we had more o' th' breed!'* Act II.

M.A. Rooker del.

J. Collyer sc.

T H E

SEA - VOYAGE.

A C T I.

A tempest, thunder and lightning.

Enter Master and two Sailors.

Master. **L**AY her aloof, the sea grows dangerous:
How't spits against the clouds! how
it capers,
And how the fiery element frights it back!
There be devils dancing in the air I think.

¹ This play, as it stands in all the former copies, has not received so much injury in its sense as measure, and so we have not so much cause to complain of the former as of the latter; yet cause there is, as the reader will see in the following notes. Mr. Shirley, who published the old folio edition, seems to have had little care of making our Poets appear to advantage, when he sent this play into the world in so unpoetical a dress; I own the restoring of the measure cost me abundantly more application and pains than the correcting the text; but yet the reader must not expect that musical, exact flow of numbers which our modern gentlemen of Parnassus are so careful about, here, any more than in Shakespeare: However, I think, I may remark once for all, both upon our Authors and him, that whenever any subject requires the sublime, the pathetick or descriptive, there the numbers are equal to both the sentiment and diction, and the happy mixture is capable of transporting any soul who has the least taste for the beauties of poetry. *Sympson.*

In 'restoring the measure' (as Mr. Sympson calls it) he has tacitly interpolated and omitted in a manner unprecedented in any editors but those of these Works in 1750. The variations, both avowed and secret, we may safely pronounce to be almost all for the worse, and unworthy mention; those which are otherwise, shall be properly noticed.

82 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

I saw a dolphin hang i'th' horns o'th' moon,
Shot from a wave. Hey day, hey day, how she
kicks and yerks!

Down with the main-mast! lay her at hull!
Furl up all her linens, and let her ride it out!

1 *Sailor*. She'll never brook it, Master;
She's so deep laden that she'll bulge.

Master. Hang her!
Can she not buffet with a storm a little?
How it tosses her! she reels like a drunkard.

2 *Sailor*. We have discover'd the land, Sir; pray
let's make in!

She is so drunk else she may chance
To cast up all her lading.

1 *Sailor*. Stand in, stand in!
We are all lost else, lost and perish'd.

Master. Steer her a-starboard there!

2 *Sailor*. Bear in with all the sail we can! See, Master,
See what a clap of thunder there is! what
A face of Heav'n! how dreadfully it looks!

Master. Thou rascal, thou fearful rogue, th' hast
been praying!

I see it in thy face; thou hast been mumbling,
When we are split, you slave²! Is this a time
To discourage our friends with your cold orizons?
Call up the Boatswain. How it storms! holla!

Enter Boatswain.

Boatsf. What shall we do, Master? Cast over all
her lading?
She will not swim an hour else.

*Enter Albert, Franville, Lamure, Tibalt du Pont, and
Morillat.*

Master. The storm is loud; we cannot
Hear one another. What's the coast?

Boatsf. We know

² *When we are split, you slave.*] The accurate Symphon reads,
When we are splitting, slave.

Not yet; shall we make in?

Alb. What comfort, Sailors?

I never saw, since I have known the sea,
(Which has been this twenty years) so rude a tempest:
In what state are we?

Master. Dangerous enough, captain:
We have sprung five leaks, and no little ones;
(Still rage!) besides, her ribs are open;
Her rudder almost spent: Prepare yourselves,
And have good courages! Death comes but once;
And let him come in all his frights!

Alb. Is't not possible,
To make in to the land? 'Tis here before us.

Mor. Here hard by, Sir.

Master. Death's nearer, gentlemen.
Yet, do not cry; let's die like men!

Tib. Shall's hoise the boat out,
And go all at one cast? The more the merrier!

Enter Aminta.

Master. You are too hasty, monsieur; do you long
To be i'th' fish-market before your time?
Hold her up there!

Aminta. Oh, miserable fortune!
Nothing but horror sounding in mine ears;
No minute to promise to my frightened soul!

Tib. Peace, woman!
We ha' storms enough already; no more howling!

Aminta. Gentle master!

Master. Clap this woman under hatches:

Alb. Prithee speak mildly to her.

³ *We have sprung five leaks, and no little ones;*

Still rage; besides, her ribs are open.] Here the words *still rage*, should either be in a parenthesis with a note of admiration, (*still rage!*) or else, which is more probable from the defect in the measure, something is lost, and I believe the original was,

five leaks, and no little ones;

The winds *still rage; besides, her ribs are open,*
or perhaps, *The seas.*

Sympson.

We think the first conjecture best.

Aminta. Can no help——

Master. None, that I know.

Aminta. No promise from your goodness——

Master. Am I a god? For Heaven's sake, stow this woman!

Tib. Go, take your gilt Prayer-book, and to your business!

Wink and die! There an old haddock stays for you.

Aminta. Must I die here in all the frights, the terrors,
The thousand several shapes Death triumphs in?
No friend to counsel me?

Alb. Have peace, sweet mistress!

Aminta. No kindred's tears upon me? Oh, my country!

No gentle hand to close mine eyes?

Alb. Be comforted;

Heaven has the same pow'r still, and the same mercy.

Aminta. Oh, that wave will devour me!

Master. Carry her down, captain,

Or, by these hands, I'll give no more direction,
Let the ship sink or swim! We ha' ne'er better luck
When we've such stowage as these trinkets with us,
These sweet sin-breeders: How can Heaven smile on
us,

When such a burden of iniquity
Lies tumbling, like a potion, in our ship's belly? [*Ex.*

Tib. Away with her; and, if she have a prayer
That's fit for such an hour, let her say't quickly,
And seriously! [*Exit.*

Alb. Come; I see it clear, lady;

Come in, and take some comfort! I'll stay with you.

Aminta. Where should I stay? to what end should
I hope?

Am I not circled round with misery?

Confusions in their full heights dwell about me!

Oh, monsieur Albert, how am I bound to curse you,
(if curses could redeem me) how to hate you!

You forc'd me from my quiet, from my friends,
Even from their arms that were as dear to me

As day-light is, or comfort to the wretched;
 You forc'd my friends, some from their peaceful rest,
 Some your relentless sword gave their last groans;
 ('Would I had there been number'd!) and to Fortune's
 Never-satisfied afflictions you turn'd my brother
 And those few friends I'd left, like desperate creatures,
 To their own fears and the world's stubborn pities.
 Oh, merciless!

Alb. Sweet mistress!

Aminta. And whether they are wandering to avoid
 you,

Or whether dead, and no kind earth to cover 'em—
 Was this a lover's part? But Heaven has found you,
 And in his loudest voice, his voice of thunder,
 And in the mutiny of his deep-wonders⁴,
 He tells you now, you weep too late.

Alb. Let these tears

Tell how I honour you! You know, dear lady,
 Since you were mine, how truly I have lov'd you,
 How sanctimoniously observ'd your honour:
 Not one lascivious word, not one touch, lady,
 No, not a hope that might not render me
 The unpolluted servant of your chastity.
 For you I put to sea, to seek your brother⁵,

⁴ *Of his deep wonders.*] *Deep wonders* may be good English, but it is not very intelligible as it is here circumstanced; the addition of a single hyphen makes all clear, *deep-wonders*. *Symphon.*

⁵ *For you I put to sea, to seek your brother.*] This, if it has any meaning, must signify that his sole end of putting to sea was to find out her brother, and yet, act iii. scene i. *Franville* says positively that they were bound

For happy places, and most fertile islands,
 but that afterwards

She turn'd the captain's mind, &c.

This inconsistency might possibly be owing to some over and above complaisant player, who was willing to enhance the value of Albert's service, and make him compliment his mistress, not only at the expense of our Poets, but even of truth itself. *Symphon.*

This assertion here is too positive, and too much pursued, and the circumstance too unimportant to be ascribed to the interpolation of a player. If there is an inconsistency, it is more probably owing to the inadvertency of the Authors.

86 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

(Your captain, yet your slave) that his redemption,
If he be living where the sun has circuit,
May expiate your rigour, and my rashness.

Aminta. The storm grows greater; what shall we do?

Alb. Let's in,

And ask Heaven's mercy! My strong mind yet presages,
Thro' all these dangers, we shall see a day yet
Shall crown your pious hopes, and my fair wishes.

[*Exit with Aminta.*]

Enter Master, Sailors, Gentlemen, and Boatswain.

Master. It must all overboard.

Boatsf. It clears to seaward, Master.

Master. Fling o'er the lading there, and let us
lighten her,

(All the meat, and the cakes; we are all gone else!)

That we may find her leaks, and hold her up!

Yet save some little biscuit for the lady,

'Till we come to th' land⁶!

Lam. Must my goods over too?

Why, honest Matter, here lies all my money,

The money I ha' rack'd by usury,

To buy new lands and lordships in new countries,

'Cause I was banish'd from mine own: I ha' been

This twenty years a-raising it,

Tib. Out with it!

The devils are got together by the ears,

Who shall ha't; and here they quarrel in the clouds.

Lam. I am undone, Sir!

Tib. And be undone; 'tis better than we perish.

Lam. Oh, save one chest of plate!

Tib. Away with it lustily, sailors!

It was some pawn that he has got unjustly;

Down with it low enough, and let crabs breed in't!

Master. Over with the trunks too.

⁶ *Fling o'er the lading, &c.*] The giving this and the following four lines to the *Master* (which was before a continuation of the *Boatswain's* speech) is recommended by Symphon.

Enter

Enter Albert.

Alb. Take mine, and spare not.

Master. We must over with all.

Fran. Will ye throw away my lordship that I sold,
Put it into cloaths and necessaries, to go to sea with?

Tib. Over wi't! I love to see a lordship sink:
Sir, you left no wood upon't, to buoy it up;
You might ha' sav'd it else.

Fran. I am undone
For ever.

Alb. Why, we're all undone: Would you
Be only happy?

Lam. Sir, you may lose too.

Tib. Thou liest! I ha' nothing but my skin,
And my cloaths; my sword here, and myself;
Two crowns in my pocket, two pair of cards⁷,
And three false dice: I can swim like a fish,
Rascal; nothing to hinder me.

Boatsf. In with her of all hands!

Master. Come, gentlemen; come, captain; ye must
help all.
My life now for the land! 'Tis high, and rocky,
And full of perils.

Alb. However, let's attempt it!

Master. Then cheer lustily, my hearts! [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Sebastian and Nicusa.

Seb. Yes, 'tis a ship; I see it now; a tall ship!
She has wrought lustily for her deliverance.
Heaven's mercy, what a wretched day has here been!

Nicusa. To still and quiet minds that knew no
misery,

⁷ *Two pair of cards.*] i. e. *Two PACKS of cards*, as they are now called. They were formerly called, as here, *PAIRS of cards*. Thus in 'The honorable historie of the Frier Bacon and Frier Bongay, by Robert Greene, 1630,' 'Have you not good tippling houses there? may not a man have a lusty fire there, a pot of good ale, a *PAIRE of cardes*, a swinging piece of chalke, and a brown toast that will clap a white waistcoat on a cup of good drinke.'

88 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

It may seem wretched ; but with us 'tis ordinary ;
Heaven has no storm in store, nor earth no terror,
That can seem new to us.

Seb. 'Tis true, Nicusa :

If Fortune were determin'd to be wanton,
And would wipe out the stories of mens' miseries,
Yet we two living, we could cross her purpose ;
For 'tis impossible she should cure us,
We are so excellent in our afflictions :
It would be more than glory to her blindness,
And stile her power beyond her pride, to quit us.

Nicusa. Do they live still ?

Seb. Yes, and make to harbour.

Nicusa. Most miserable men ! I grieve their fortunes.

Seb. How happy had they been, had the sea cover'd
'em !

They leap from one calamity to another ;
Had they been drown'd, they'd ended all their sorrows.
What shouts of joy they make ! *[Shout within.]*

Nicusa. Alas, poor wretches !

Had they but once experience of this island,
They'd turn their tunes to wailings.

Seb. Nay, to curses,
That ever they set foot on such calamities :
Here is no thing but rocks and barrenness³,

³ *Here's nothing but rocks and barrenness,*

Hunger and cold to eat ; here's no vineyards, &c.] Nothing but rocks and barrenness to eat, is intelligible and good language, but surely no poetical licence will excuse what follows,

Hunger and cold to eat ; —

I would read, for meat ; i. e. instead of meat, and propose to supply the measure thus,

There's nothing here but rocks and barrenness,

Hunger and cold for meat ; here are no vineyards, &c.

Seward.

I would read and point thus,

Here's nothing here but rocks and barrenness,

Hunger and cold ; nothing to eat ; no vineyards —

As I have not alter'd the text, the reader may take his choice.

Symson.

We do not understand why meat is better than eat ; the sense is the same ; and the rest of the variation is unauthorized.

Hunger and cold, to eat ; here's no vineyards
 To chear the heart of man, no cryſtal rivers,
 After his labour, to reſreſh his body,
 If he be feeble ; nothing to reſtore him,
 But heav'nly hopes : Nature that made thoſe remedies,
 Dares not come here, nor look on our diſtreſſes,
 For fear ſhe turn wild, like the place, and barren.

Nicuſa. Oh, uncle, yet a little memory of what
 we were !

'Twill be a little comfort in our calamities :
 When we were ſeated in our bleſſed homes,
 How happy in our kindreds, in our families,
 In all our fortunes——

Seb. Curſe on thoſe French pirates
 That diſplanted us ! That flung us from that happineſs
 We found there, conſtrained us to ſea,
 To ſave our lives, honours, and our riches,
 With all we had, our kiſmen and our jewels,
 In hope to find ſome place free from ſuch robbers !—
 Where a mighty ſtorm ſever'd our barks, that where
 My wife, my daughter, and my noble ladies
 That went with her, virgins and loving ſouls,
 To ſcape thoſe pirates——

Nicuſa. They are living yet ; ſuch goodneſs cannot
 periſh.

Seb. But never to me, couſin, never to me again.
 What bears their flag-ftaves ?

Nicuſa. The arms of France ſure.

Nay, do not ſtart ! we cannot be more miſerable ;
 Death is a cordial now, come when it will.

Seb. They get to ſhore apace ; they'll fly as faſt
 When once they find the place. What's that which
 ſwims there ?

Nicuſa. A ſtrong young man, Sir, with a handſome
 woman

Hanging about his neck.

Seb. That ſhews ſome honour :

May thy brave charity, whate'er thou art,
 Be ſpoken in a place that may renown thee,

And

90 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

And not die here!

Nicusa. The boat, it seems, turn'd over,
So forced to their shifts; yet all are landed.
They're pirates, on my life.

Seb. They will not rob us;
For none will take our misery for riches.
Come, cousin, let's descend, and try their pities!
If we get off, a little hope walks with us;
If not, we shall but load this wretched island
With the same shadows still, that must grow shorter.

[*Exeunt.*]

*Enter Albert, Aminta, Tibalt, Morillat, Lamure,
Master, Franville, Surgeon, and Sailors.*

Tib. Wet come ashore⁹, my mates! we're safe arriv'd yet.

Master. Thanks to Heaven's goodness, no man lost:
The ship rides fair too, and her leaks in good plight.

Alb. The weather's turn'd more courteous.—How does my dear?

'Alas, how weak she is, and wet!

Aminta. I am glad yet, I scap'd with life:
Which certain, noble captain, next to Heaven's goodness,

I must thank you for; and, which is more,
Acknowledge your dear tenderness, your firm love,
To your unworthy mistress; and recant too
(Indeed I must) those harsh opinions,
Those cruel unkind thoughts, I heap'd upon you;
Further than that, I must forget your injuries,
So far I am tied and fetter'd to your service;
Believe me, I will learn to love.

Alb. I thank you, madam;
And it shall be my practice to serve.
What cheer, companions?

⁹ Wet come ashore—arrived yet.

Maft. *Thanks—*] *Wet* come alluding to *Welcome* is exceeding right and proper here in *Tibalt's* mouth, whose droil character is well supported throughout the play.

Sympson.

Tib.

Tib. No great cheer, Sir ; a piece of soufed biscuit,
And half an hard egg ; for the sea has ta'en order,
Being young and strong, we shall not surfeit, captain.
For mine own part, I'll dance till I am dry :
Come, Surgeon, out with your clyster-pipe,
And strike a galliard.

Alb. What a brave day again ! and what fair weather,

After so foul a storm !

Lam. Ay, an't pleas'd the Master,
He might ha' seen this weather, and ha' sav'd our goods.

Alb. Never think on 'em ! we've our lives and healths.

Lam. I must think on 'em, and think 'twas most maliciously

Done to undo me.

Fran. And me too ; I lost all :

I ha'n't another shirt to put upon me,
Nor cloaths, but these poor rags : I had fifteen
Fair suits, the worst was cut upon taffaty.

Tib. I am glad you ha' lost : Give me thy hand !
Is thy skin whole ? Art thou not pur'd¹⁰ with scabs ?
No antient monuments of madam Venus ?
Th' hast a suit then will pose the cunning'st tailor,
That will never turn fashion, nor forsake thee,
'Till thy executors, the worms, uncase thee ;
They take off glorious suits, Franville ! thou'rt happy
Thou art deliver'd of 'em ; here are no brokers,
No alchymists to turn 'em into metal ;
Nor leather'd captains,
With ladies to adore 'em ! Wilt thou see
A dog-fish rise in one of thy brave doublets,
And tumble like a tub to make thee merry ?
Or an old haddock rise with thy hatch'd sword
Thou paid'st a hundred crowns for ?
A mermaid in a mantle of your worship's ?
Or a dolphin in your double ruff ?

¹⁰ *Pur'd.*] Perhaps from the French word *parlé*, rough, rugged,
not smooth. Cotgrave's Dictionary.

Fran. Ye're merry ;
But if I take it thus, if I be foisted
And jeer'd out of my goods——

Lam. Nor I, I vow thee !
Nor Master nor Mate—I see your cunning,

Alb. Oh,
Be not angry, gentlemen !

Mor. Yes, Sir, we've reason :
And some friends I can make.

Maft. What I did, gentlemen,
Was for the general safety : If ye aim
At me, I'm not so tame——

Tib. Pray take my counsel ;
Gallants, fight not till the surgeon be well !
He's damnable sea-sick, and may spoil all ;
Besides, h' has lost his fiddlestick, and the best
Box of boar's-grease. Why do you make such faces,
And hand your swords ?

Alb. Who would ye fight with, gentlemen ?
Wh' has done ye wrong ? for shame, be better temper'd !
No sooner come to give thanks for our safeties,
But we must raise new civil broils amongst us,
Inflame those angry powers, to shower new vengeance
on us ?

What can we expect for these unmanly murmurs,
These strong temptations of their holy pities,
But plagues in another kind, a fuller, so dreadful
That the singing storms are slumbers to it ?

Tib. Be men, and rule your minds !
If you will needs fight, gentlemen,
And think to raise new riches by your valours,
Have at ye ! I have little else to do now ;
I have said my prayers. You say you have lost,
And make your loss your quarrel,
And grumble at my captain here, and th' Master,
Two worthy persons, indeed too worthy for such rascals,
Thou Galloon gallant, and Mammon you
That build on golden mountains ! thou money-
maggot !

Come,

Come, all draw your swords ! Ye say ye're miserable.

Alb. Nay, hold, good Tibalt !

Tib. Captain, let me correct 'em !—

I'll make ye ten times worse !—I will not leave 'em—
For look ye, fighting's as nourishing to me as eating ;
I was born quarrelling.

Master. Pray, Sir !

Tib. I will not leave 'em skins to cover 'em !—

Do ye grumble when ye are well, ye rogues ?

Master. Noble Du-Pont !

Tib. Ye have cloaths now, and ye prate.

Aminta. Pray, gentlemen, for my sake, be at peace !
Let it become me to make all friends !

Fran. You've stopt our angers, lady.

Alb. This shews noble.

Tib. 'Tis well ; 'tis very well ! There's half a biscuit ;
Break it amongst ye all, and thank my bounty.

This is cloaths and plate too ; come, no more quarrelling !

Aminta. But ha ! what things are these ? Are they
human creatures ?

Enter Sebastian and Nicusa.

Tib. I've heard of sea-calves.

Alb. They're no shadows sure ;

They've legs and arms.

Tib. They hang but lightly on tho'.

Aminta. How they look ! Are they mens' faces ?

Tib. They have horse-tails growing to 'em,
Goodly long manes.

Aminta. 'Las, what sunk eyes they have !

How they are crept in, as if they had been frightened !
Sure they are wretched men.

Tib. Where are their wardrobes ?

Look ye, Franville, here are a couple of courtiers !

Aminta. They kneel : Alas, poor souls !

Alb. What are ye ? speak !

Are ye alive ? or wandring shadows,
That find no peace on earth, till ye reveal

Some

Some hidden secret ?

Seb. We are men as you are,
Only our miseries make us seem monsters.
If ever pity dwelt in noble hearts——

Alb. We understand 'em too! Pray mark 'em,
gentlemen!

Seb. Or that Heaven's pleas'd with human charity;
If ever ye have heard the name of friendship,
Or suffer'd in yourselves the least afflictions;
Have gentle fathers that have bred ye tenderly,
And mothers that have wept for your misfortunes;
Have mercy on our miseries!

Alb. Stand up, wretches.
Speak boldly, and have release!

Nicusa. If ye be Christians,
And by that blessed name bound to relieve us,
Convey us from this island!

Alb. Speak! what are ye?

Seb. As you are, gentle born; to tell ye more,
Were but to number up our own calamities,
And turn your eyes wild with perpetual weepings.
These many years in this most wretched island
We two have liv'd, the scorn and game of Fortune;
Bless yourselves from it, noble gentlemen!
The greatest plagues that human nature suffers
Are seated here, wildness and wants innumerable!

Alb. How came ye hither?

Nicusa. In a ship, as you do, and (as you might have
been,
Had not Heav'n preserv'd ye for some more noble use)
Wreckt desperately; our men and all consum'd,
But we two, that still live, and spin out
The thin and ragged threads of our misfortunes.

Alb. Is there no meat above?

Seb. Nor meat nor quiet:
No summer here, to promise any thing;
Nor autumn, to make full the reapers' hands:
The earth, obdurate to the tears of Heav'n,

Lets

Lets nothing shoot but poison'd weeds ;
 No rivers, nor no pleasant groves, no beasts :
 All that were made for man's use fly this desert ;
 No airy fowl dares make his flight o'er it,
 It is so ominous.

Serpents, and ugly things, the shames of Nature,
 Roots of malignant tastes, foul standing waters :
 Sometimes we find a fulsome sea-root,
 And that's a delicate ; a rat sometimes,
 And that we hunt like princes in their pleasure ;
 And when we take a toad, we make a banquet.

Aminta. For Heav'n's sake, let's aboard !

Alb. D'ye know no further ?

Nicusa. Yes ;

We've sometimes seen the shadow of a place
 Inhabited, and heard the noise of hunters,
 And have attempted to find it : So far as a river,
 Deep, slow, and dangerous, fenced with high rocks,
 We've gone ; but, not able t'atchieve that hazard,
 Return'd to our old miseries. If this
 Sad story may deserve your pities——

Alb. Ye shall

Aboard with us ; we will relieve your miseries.

Seb. Nor will we be unthankful for this benefit ;
 No, gentlemen, we'll pay for our deliverance :
 Look, ye that plough the seas for wealth and pleasures,
 That out-run day and night with your ambitions,
 Look on those heaps ! they seem hard ragged
 quarries ;

Remove, and view 'em fully !

Master. Oh, Heav'n, they're gold and jewels !

Seb. Be not too hasty ! Here lies another heap.

Mor. And here another, all perfect gold !

Alb. Stand further off !

You must not be your own carvers.

Lam. We have shares, and deep ones.

Fran. Yes, Sir, we will maintain't : Ho, fellow-
 sailors !

Lam. Stand all to your freedoms ! I'll have all this.

Fran.

Fran. And I this.

Tib. You shall be hang'd first.

Lam. My losses shall be made good.

Fran. So shall mine, or with my sword I'll do't.—
All that will share with us, assist us!

Tib. Captain, let's set in!

Alb. This money will undo us, undo us all.

Seb. This gold was th' overthrow of my happiness:
I had command too, when I landed here,
And led young, high, and noble spirits under me:
This cursed gold enticing 'em, they set upon their
captain,

On me that own'd this wealth, and this poor gentleman;
Gave us no few wounds, forc'd us from our own
And then their civil swords, who should be owners,
And who lords over all, turn'd against their own lives;
First, in their rage consum'd the ship,
(That poor part of the ship that scap'd the first wreck)
Next, their lives by heaps: Oh, be you wise and careful!

Lam. We'll ha' more: Sirrah, come shew it!

Fran. Or ten times worse afflictions than thou
speak'ft of——

Alb. Nay, an ye will be dogs—— [*Beats 'em.*

Tib. Let me come, captain!

This golden age must have an iron ending.

Have at the bunch! [*He beats 'em off. Exit.*

Aminta. Oh, Albert! oh, gentlemen! oh, friends!

[*Exit.*

Seb. Come, noble nephew! if we stay here we die:
Here rides their ship yet; all are gone to th' spoil;
Let's make a quick use!

Nicusa. Away, dear uncle!

Seb. This gold
Was our o'erthrow.

Nicusa. It may now be our happiness. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Tibalt pursuing and beating the rest.

Tib. You shall have gold? yes, I will cram it int'ye!
You shall be your own carvers? yes, I'll carve ye.

Mor.

Mor. I'm fore: I pray hear reason!

Tib. I'll hear none:

Covetous base minds have no reason.

I'm hurt myself; but, whilst I have a leg left,
I will so haunt your gilded souls—How d'ye, captain?
You bleed apace; curse on the causers on't!
You do not faint?

Alb. No, no; I'm not so happy.

Tib. D'ye howl? nay, ye deserve it:

Base greedy rogues! Come, shall we make an end of 'em?

Alb. They are our countrymen; for Heav'n's sake,
spare 'em!

Alas, they're hurt enough, and they relent now.

Aminta [*above*]. Oh, captain, captain!

Alb. Whose voice is that?

Tib. The lady's.

Aminta. Look, captain, look! you are undone:
Poor captain!

We're all undone, all, all! we are all miserable!
Mad wilful men, ye are undone: Your ship, your ship!

Alb. What of her?

Aminta. She is under sail, and floating;
See, where she flies! See, to your shames, you wretches,
These poor starv'd things that shew'd you gold!
[*Lamure and Franville go up to see the ship.*]

1 Sailor. They have cut the cables,
And got her out; the tide too has befriended 'em.

Master. Where are the sailors that kept her?

Boats. Here, here i' th' mutiny, to take up money,
And left no creature; left the boat ashore too:
This gold, this damn'd enticing gold!

2 Sailor. How the wind drives her,
As if it vied to force her from our furies!

Lam. Come back, good old men!

Fran. Good honest men, come back!

Tib. The wind's against ye; speak louder!

Lam. Ye shall have all your gold again. They see us.

Tib. Hold up your hands, and kneel, and howl,
ye blockheads!

They'll have compassion on ye?

Yes, yes, 'tis very likely; ye've deserv'd it.

D'ye look like dogs now? Are your mighty courages Abated?

Alb. I bleed apace, Tibalt.

Tib. Retire, Sir;

And make the best use of our miseries!

They but begin now.

Enter Aminta.

Aminta. Are ye alive still?

Alb. Yes, sweet.

Tib. Help him off, lady,

And wrap him warm in your arms; here is something That's comfortable; off with him handsomely!

I'll come to ye straight, but vex these rascals a little.

[Exeunt Albert and Aminta.]

Fran. Oh, I'm hungry, and hurt, and I am weary.

Tib. Here is a pebble of a Portigues, Sir!

'Tis excellent meat with four sauce:

And here's two chains; suppose 'em saufages!

Then there wants mustard; but the fearful Surgeon Will supply ye presently¹¹.

Lam. Oh, for that Surgeon! I shall die else.

Tib. Faith, there he lies in the same pickle too.

Surgeon. My salves and all my instruments are lost; And I am hurt and starv'd: Good Sir, seek for Some herbs!

Tib. Here's herb-graceless; will that serve? Gentlemen, will ye go to supper?

Omnes. Where is the meat?

Tib. Where is the meat? What a veal-voice is there?

¹¹ But *th'* fearful Surgeon will supply ye presently.

Lam. Oh, for that Surgeon, I shall die else.] *Fearful*, in the present passage, is an epithet, which carries neither sense nor humour. If we would make Tibalt congruous with himself, methinks it should be done by reading in both lines thus;

But th' careful Surgeon, &c.

To which *Lamure* should answer;

Oh, for that careful Surgeon, I shall die else. *Symphon.*

Fran.

Fran. 'Would we had it, Sir; or any thing else!

Tib. I would now cut your throat, you dog, but that
I wo'not do you such a courtesy,
To take you from the benefit of starving.
Oh, what a comfort will your worship have
Some three days hence! Ye things beneath pity!
Famine shall be your harbinger:
You must not look for down-beds here; nor hangings;
Tho' I could wish ye strong ones;
Yet there be many lightsome cool star-chambers,
Open to every sweet air, I'll assure ye,
Ready provided for ye, and so I'll leave ye:
Your first course is serv'd; expect the second! [*Exit.*]

Fran. A vengeance on these jewels!

Lam. Oh, this cursed gold! [*Exeunt.*]

A C T II.

Enter Albert and Aminta.

Alb. ALAS, dear soul, you faint!
Aminta. You speak the language
Which I should use to you. Heav'n knows my weakness
Is not for what I suffer in myself,
But to imagine what you endure,
And to what fate your cruel stars reserve you.

Alb. Do not add to my afflictions by
Your tender pities! Sure we have chang'd sexes:
You bear calamity with a fortitude
Would become a man; I like a weak girl suffer.

Aminta. Oh, but your wounds;
How fearfully they gape! and every one
To me's a sepulchre. If I lov'd truly,
(Wise men affirm, that true love can do wonders)
These bath'd in my warm tears would soon be cur'd,
And leave no orifice behind. Pray give me leave
To play the surgeon, and bind 'em up!

The raw air rankles 'em.

Alb. Sweet, we want means.

Aminta. Love can supply all wants.

Alb. What have ye done, sweet?

Oh, sacrilege to beauty! there's no hair
Of these pure locks¹², by which the greatest king
Would not be gladly bound, and love his fetters.

Aminta. Oh, Albert, I offer
This sacrifice of service to the altar
Of your staid temperance, and still adore it:
When with a violent hand you made me yours,
I curs'd the doer; but, now I consider
How long I was in your power, and with what honour
You entertain'd me, (it being seldom seen,
That youth and heat of blood could e'er prescribe
Laws to itself) your goodness is the Lethe
In which I drown your inj'ries, and now live
Truly to serve ye. How do you, Sir? Receive you
The least ease from my service? If you do,
I'm largely recompensed.

Alb. You good angels
That are engag'd, when man's ability fails,
To reward goodness, look upon this lady!
Tho' hunger gripes my croaking entrails,
Yet, when I kiss these rubies methinks
I'm at a banquet, a refreshing banquet.
Speak, my bless'd one; art not hungry?

Aminta. Indeed I could eat, to bear you company.

Alb. Blush, unkind Nature,
If thou hast power or being! To hear
Thyself, and by such innocence, accus'd,
Must print a thousand kinds of shames upon
Thy various face: Canst thou supply a drunkard,
And with a prodigal hand reach choice of wines,

¹² *Oh, sacrilege to beauty! &c.]* This is seemingly from Tasso, book 19. stanza 112, where Erminia binds up Tancred's wounds with her hair.

' For with her amber locks cut off, each wound

' She tied: Oh, happy man, so cur'd so bound.' *Symphon.*

"Till

'Till he cast up thy blessings? or a glutton,
That robs the elements to sooth his palate,
And only eats to beget appetite,
Not to be satisfied? and suffer here
A virgin, which the saints would make their guest,
To pine for hunger? [*Horns within.*] Ha! if my sense
Deceive me not, these notes take being from
The breath of men. Confirm me, my Aminta!
Again! This way the gentle wind conveys it to us¹³.
Hear you nothing?

Aminta. Yes; it seems free hunters' musick.

Alb. Still 'tis louder; and I remember the Portugals
Inform'd us, they had often heard such sounds,
But ne'er could touch the shore from whence it came.
Follow me, my Aminta! My good genius,
Shew me the way! Still, still we are directed;
When we gain the top of this near rising hill,
We shall know further. [*Ex. and enter above.*]

Alb. Courteous Zephyrus,
On's dewy wings, carries perfumes to cheer us:
The air clears too; and now we may discern another
island,

And questionless, the seat of fort'nate men:
Oh, that we could arrive there!

Aminta. No, Albert;
It is not to be hop'd: This envious torrent
Is cruelly interpos'd; we have no vessel
That may transport us, nor hath Nature given
Us wings to fly.

Alb. Better try all hazards,
Than perish here remediless; I feel
New vigour in me, and a spirit that dares
More than a man to serve my fair Aminta:
These arms shall be my oars, with which I'll swim,
And my zeal to save thy innocent self, like wings,

¹³ Again, *this way the gentle wind conveys it to us.*] Symphon seems positive that 'the word again is only an order for the horns to 'sound a second time,' and therefore places it as a marginal direction: But we think it might very well be a part of the text.

Shall bear me up above the brackish waves.

Aminta. Will ye then leave me? 'Till now I ne'er was wretched ¹⁴.

Alb. My best Aminta, I swear by goodness, 'tis not Hope, nor fear, of myself, that invites me To this extreme; 'tis to supply thy wants: And believe me,

Tho' pleasure met me in most ravishing forms,
And happiness courted me to entertain her,
I would nor eat nor sleep, till I return'd
And crown'd thee with my fortunes.

Aminta. Oh, but your absence——

Alb. Suppose it but a dream, and, as you may,
Endeavour to take rest! And when that sleep
Deceives your hunger with imagin'd food,
Think you have sent me for discovery
Of some most fortunate continent, yet unknown,
Which you are to be queen of!—
And now, ye pow'rs that e'er heard lovers' prayers,
Or cherish'd pure affection, look on him
That is your votary; and make it known,
Against all stops, you can defend your own! [*Exe.*

Enter Hippolita, Crocale, and Juletta.

Hip. How did we lose Clarinda?

Croc. When we believ'd the stag was spent,
And would take soil, the sight of the Black Lake,
Which we suppos'd he chose for his last refuge,
Frighted him more than we that did pursue him.

Jul. That's usual; for death itself is not so terrible
To any beast of chase.

Hip. Since we liv'd here,

¹⁴ *Aminta.* Will ye then leave me?

Alb. Till now I ne'er was wretched.] This is the most material corruption in the sense that I have met with in this play. The pretty softness and tender fears of *Aminta* are given to *Albert*. I read,

Aminta. Will ye leave me then? 'till now I ne'er was wretched.

Alb. My best Aminta, I swear by goodness, 'tis

Not hope, &c.

Seward.

We ne'er could force one to it.

Croc. 'Tis so dreadful,

The birds that with their pinions cleave the air
Dare not fly o'er it. When the stag turn'd head,
And we even tir'd with labour,

Clarinda, as if she were made of air

And fire, and had no part of earth in her,

Eagerly pursu'd him:

Nor need we fear her safety; this place yields

Not fawns nor satyrs, or most lustful men;

Here we live secure,

And have among ourselves a commonwealth,

Which in ourselves begun, with us must end.

Jul. Ay, there's the misery!

Croc. But being alone,

Allow me freedom but to speak my thoughts!

The strictness of our governess, that forbids us,

On pain of death, the sight and use of men,

Is more than tyranny: For herself, she's past

Those youthful heats, and feels not the want

Of that which young maids long for: And her
daughter

The fair Clarinda, tho' in few years improv'd

In height and large proportion, came here so young,

That, scarce remembering that she had a father,

She never dreams of man; and should she see one,

In my opinion, a' would appear

A strange beast to her.

Jul. 'Tis not so with us.

Hip. For my part, I confess't, I was not made for

This single life; nor do I love hunting so,

But that I had rather be the chase myself.

Croc. By Venus (out upon me! I should have

Sworn by Diana), I'm of thy mind too, wench:

And tho' I have ta'en an oath, not alone

To detest, but never to think of man,

Ev'ry hour something tells me I'm forsworn;

For, I confess, imagination helps me

Sometimes, and that's all's left for us to feed on;

We might starve else; for if I've any pleasure in
This life, but when I sleep, I am a Pagan.

Then, from the courtier to the country clown,
I have strange visions——

Jul. Visions, Crocale?

Croc. Yes, and fine visions too;
And visions I hope in dreams are harmless,
And not forbid by' our canons. The last night
(Troth, 'tis a foolish one, but I must tell it)
As I lay in my cabin, betwixt sleeping and waking——

Hip. Upon your back?

Croc. How should a young maid lie, fool,
When she would be intranc'd?

Hip. We are instructed;
Forward, I prithee.

Croc. Methought a sweet young man,
In years some twenty, with a downy chin,
Promising a future beard, and yet no red one¹⁵,
Stole slyly to my cabin all unbrac'd,
Took me in's arms, and kiss'd me twenty times;
Yet still I slept.

Jul. Fy! thy lips run over, Crocale.
But to the rest!

Croc. Lord, what a man is this,
Thought I, to do this to a maid! Yet then
For my life I could not wake. The youth,
A little daunted, with a trembling hand
Heav'd up the cloaths.

Hip. Yet still you slept?

Croc. I faith, I did.
And when, methoughts, he was warm by my side,
Thinking to catch him, I stretch'd out both mine arms;

¹⁵ *And yet no red one.*] Painters used frequently in the times of our Authors to pourtray Judas with a red beard. In many of our old plays, a Judas-beard or Judas-coloured beard are mentioned; and to this circumstance, joined to Judas's being a deceiver, our Author seems here to allude. See *Leland's Collection*, vol. v. p. 293, where it is said, painters constantly represented Judas the traitor with a red beard.

See also vol. viii. p. 462, of this Work.

And when I felt him not, I shrieked out,
And wak'd for anger.

Hip. 'Twas a pretty dream!

Croc. Ay, if it had been a true one.

[Albert discovered lying along upon the shore.]

Ful. But stay!

What's here cast on the shore?

Hip. It is a man:

Shall I shoot him?

Croc. No, no, 'tis a handsome beast;

'Would we had more o'th' breed! Stand close,
wenches,

And let's hear if he can speak!

Alb. Do I yet live?

Sure it is air I breathe! What place is this?

Sure something more than human keeps residence here,

For I have past the Stygian gulph,

And touch upon the blessed shore: 'Tis so;

This is th' Elysian shade; these, happy spirits

That here enjoy all pleasures!

Hip. He makes towards us.

Ful. Stand, or I'll shoot!

Croc. Hold! he makes no resistance.

Alb. Be not offended, goddesses, that I fall

Thus prostrate at your feet! or, if not such,

But nymphs of Dian's train, that range these groves,

Which you forbid to men; vouchsafe to know

I am a man, a wicked sinful man:

And yet not fold

So far to impudence, as to presume

To press upon your privacies, or provoke

Your heavenly angers! 'tis not for myself

I beg thus poorly; for I'm already wounded,

Wounded to death, and faint; my last breath is for

A virgin, comes as near yourselves in all

Perfection, as what is mortal may

Resemble things divine. Oh, pity her,

And let your charity free her from that desert,

If heav'nly charity can reach to hell;

For

106 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

For sure that place comes near it! and where-e'er
My ghost shall find abode, eternally
I shall pour blessings on ye!

Hip. By my life,
I cannot hurt him!

Croc. Tho' I lose my head for't,
Nor I: I must pity him, and will.

Enter Clarinda.

Jul. But stay!
Clarinda!

Clar. What new game have ye found here! Ha!
What beast is this lies wallowing in his gore?

Croc. Keep off!

Clar. Wherefore, I pray? I never turn'd
From a fell lions robb'd of her whelps;
And shall I fear dead carrion?

Jul. Oh, but——

Clar. But, what is't?

Hip. It is infectious.

Clar. Has it not a name?

Croc. Yes;

But such a name, from which, as from the devil,
Your mother commands us fly.

Clar. Is it a man?

Croc. It is.

Clar. What a brave shape it has in death!
How excellent would it appear, had it life!
Why should it be infectious? I have heard
My mother say, I had a father;
And was not he a man?

Croc. Questionless, madam.

Clar. Your fathers too were men?

Jul. Without doubt, lady.

Clar. And without such it is impossible
We could have been?

Hip. A sin against nature to deny it.

Clar. Nor can you or I have any hope to be a mother,
Without the help of men.

Croc.

Croc. Impossible!

Clar. Which of you then, most barbarous, that knew
You from a man had being, and owe to it
The name of parent, durst presume to kill
The likeness of that thing by which you are?
Whose arrows made these wounds? speak, or, by Dian,
Without distinction I'll let fly at ye all!

Jul. Not mine,

Hip. Nor mine.

Croc. 'Tis strange to see her mov'd thus.
Restrain your fury, madam! had we kill'd him,
We had but perform'd your mother's command.

Clar. But if she command unjust and cruel things,
We're not t' obey it.

Croc. We are innocent:
Some storm did cast him shipwreck'd on the shore,
As you see wounded: Nor durst we be surgeons
To such your mother doth appoint for death,

Clar. Weak excuse! where's pity?
Where's soft compassion? Cruel and ungrateful,
Did Providence offer to your charity
But one poor subject to express it on,
And in't to shew our wants too; and could you
So carelessly neglect it?

Hip. For aught I know,
He's living yet; and you may tempt your mother,
By giving him succour.

Clar. Ha! come near, I charge ye.
So! bend his body softly; rub his temples;
Nay, that shall be my office: How the red steals
Into his pale lips! Run and fetch the simples
With which my mother heal'd my arm, when last I
Was wounded by the boar.

Croc. Do; but remember
Her to come after you, that she may behold
Her daughter's charity!

Clar. Now he breathes! [Exit Hip.
The air passing thro' th' Arabian groves
Yields not so sweet an odour: Prithee taste it,
Taste it, good Crocale! yet I envy thee

108 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

So great a blessing. 'Tis not sin to touch
These rubies, is it?

Jul. Not, I think.

Clar. Or thus to live, camelion-like? I could
Resign my essence to live ever thus.
Oh, welcome! Raise him up gently. Some soft hand
Bound up these wounds: A woman's hair? What fury,
For which my ign'rance does not know a name,
Is crept into my breast? But I forget

Enter Hippolita.

My pious work. Now if this juice hath power,
Let it appear! His eye-lids ope: Prodigious!
Two suns break from these orbs.

Alb. Ha! where am I? what new vision's this?
To what goddesses do I owe this second life?
Sure thou art more than mortal!
And any sacrifice of thanks or duty
In poor and wretched man to pay, comes short
Of your immortal bounty: But to shew
I'm not unthankful, thus in humility
I kiss the happy ground you have made sacred,
By bearing of your weight.

Clar. No goddess, friend,
But made of that same brittle mould as you are;
One too acquainted with calamities,
And from that apt to pity. Charity ever
Finds in the act reward, and needs no trumpet
In the receiver. Oh, forbear this duty!
I have a hand to meet with yours, and lips
To bid yours welcome.

Croc. I see that, by instinct,
Tho' a young maid hath never seen a man,
Touches have titillations, and inform her,

Enter Rosellia.

But here's our governess: Now I expect a storm.

Ros. Child of my flesh, and not of my fair unspotted
mind,
Unhand this monster!

Clar.

Clar. Monster, mother?

Ros. Yes;

And ev'ry word he speaks, a fyren's note,
To drown the careless hearer. Have I not taught thee
The falshood and the perjuries of men,
On whom, but for a woman to shew pity,
Is to be cruel to herself? The sovereignty
Proud and imperious men usurp upon us,
We confer on ourselves, and love those fetters
We fasten to our freedoms. Have we, Glarinda,
Since thy father's wreck, fought liberty,
To lose it uncompell'd? Did Fortune guide,
Or rather Destiny, our bark (to which
We could appoint no port) to this blest place,
Inhabited heretofore by warlike women,
That kept men in subjection? did we then,
By their example, after we had lost
All we could love in man, here plant ourselves,
With execrable oaths never to look
On man, but as a monster? and wilt thou
Be the first precedent to infringe those vows
We made to Heaven?

Clar. Hear me, and hear me with justice!

And as you are delighted in the name
Of mother, hear a daughter that would be like you!
Should all women use this obstinate abstinence
You would force upon us, in a few years
The whole world would be peopled only with beasts.

Hip. We must and will have men.

Croc. Ay, or we'll shake off all obedience.

Ros. Are ye mad? can no persuasion alter ye?
Suppose you had my suffrage to your suit,
Can this shipwreck'd wretch supply ye all?

Alb. Hear me, great lady!

I've fellows in my misery: Not far hence,
Divided only by this hellish river,
There live a company of wretched men,
Such as your charity may make your slaves:
Imagine all the miseries mankind

May suffer under, and they groan beneath 'em.

Clar. But are they like to you?

Jul. Speak they your language?

Croc. Are they able, lusty men?

Alb. They were, good ladies,
And in their May of youth, of gentle blood;
And such as may deserve ye: Now cold and hunger
Have less'n'd their perfection; but, restor'd
To what they were, I doubt not they'll appear
Worthy your favours.

Jul. This is a blessing
We durst not hope for.

Clar. Dear mother, ben't obdurate!

Ros. Hear then my resolution, and labour not
To add to what I'll grant! for 'twill be fruitless.
You shall appear as good angels to these wretched men;
In a small boat we will pass over to 'em,
And bring 'em comfort: If you like their persons,
And they approve of yours, for we'll force nothing—
And since we want ceremonies,
Each one shall chuse a husband, and enjoy
His company a month; but that expir'd,
You shall no more come near 'em: If you prove
fruitful,

The males ye shall return to them, the females
We will reserve ourselves. This is the utmost
Ye shall ever obtain.—As ye think fit,
Ye may dismiss this stranger, and prepare
Tomorrow for the journey.

[*Exit.*

Clar. Come, Sir, will you walk?
We'll shew you our pleasant bowers, and something you
Shall find to cheer your heart.

Alb. Excellent lady,
Tho' 'twill appear a wonder one near starv'd
Should refuse rest and meat, I must not take
Your noble offer: I left in yonder desert
A virgin almost pin'd.

Clar. She's not your wife?

Alb. No, lady, but my sister.—'Tis now dangerous

To

To speak truth.—To her I deeply vow'd
Not to taste food, or rest, if Fortune brought it me,
'Till I blest'd her with my return: Now if
You please t' afford me an easy passage to her,
And some meat for her recovery,
I shall live your slave, and thankfully she shall
Ever acknowledge her life at your service.

Clar. You plead so well, I can deny you nothing:
I myself will see you furnished, and with
The next sun visit and relieve thee.

Alb. You're all goodness! [*Exeunt.*

A C T III.

Enter severally, Lamure, Franville, and Morillat.

Lam. **O**H! what a tempest have I in my stomach!
How my empty guts cry out! my wounds
ache;

'Would they would bleed again, that I might get
Something to quench my thirst!

Fran. Oh, Lamure, the happiness my dogs had
When I kept house at home! they had a storehouse,
A storehouse of most blessed bones and crusts,
Happy crusts! Oh, how sharp hunger pinches me!

[*Exit.*

Mor. Oh, my importunate belly! I have nothing
to satisfy thee:

I've fought as far as my weak legs would carry me,
Yet can find nothing, neither meat nor water,
Nor any thing that's nourishing. My belly
Is grown together like an empty fatchel.

Re-enter Franville.

Lam. How now? what news?

Mor. Hast any meat yet?

Fran. Not a bit that I can see;
Here be goodly quarries, but they be cruel hard to gnaw.
I ha'

112 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

I ha' got some mud, (we will eat it with spoons)
 Very good thick mud; but it stinks damnably:
 There's old rotten trunks of trees too,
 But not a leaf nor blossom in all th' island.

Lam. How it looks?

Mor. It stinks too.

Lam. It may be poison.

Fran. Let it be any thing, so I can get it down!

Why, man,

Poison's a princely dish!

Mor. Hast thou no biscuit?

No crumbs left in thy pocket? here's my doublet,
 Give me but three small crumbs.

Fran. Not for three kingdoms,
 If I were master of 'em. Oh, Lamure,
 But one poor joint of mutton we ha' scorn'd, man!

Lam. Thou speak'st of Paradise.

Fran. Or but the snuffs of those healths we have
 lewdly

At midnight flang away!

Mor. Ah, but to lick the glasses!

Enter Surgeon.

Fran. Here comes the Surgeon: What hast thou
 discover'd?

Smile, smile, and comfort us.

Surgeon. I am expiring;
 Smile they that can! I can find nothing, gentlemen;
 Here's nothing can be meat, without a miracle.
 Oh, that I had my boxes and my lints now,
 My stupes, my tents, and those sweet helps of nature,
 What dainty dishes could I make of 'em!

Mor. Hast ne'er an old suppository?

Surgeon. Oh, would I had, Sir!

Lam. Or but the paper where such a cordial,
 Potion, or pills hath been entomb'd?

Fran. Or the blest bladder where a cooling-clifter—

Mor. Hast thou no scar cloths left? nor any old
 poultices?

Fran. We care not to what it hath been minister'd.

Surgeon.

Surgeon. Sure I have none of these dainties,
gentlemen.

Fran. Where's the

Great wen thou cut'st from Hugh the sailor's shoulder?
That would serve now for a most princely banquet.

Surgeon. Ay, if we had it, gentlemen:

I flung it overboard, slave that I was!

Lam. A most unprovident villain!

Surgeon. If I had any thing that were but supple now!
I could make fallads of your shoes, gentlemen,
And rare ones! any thing unctuous.

Mor. Ay, and then we might fry the soals i' th' sun;
The soals would make a second dish.

Lam. Or soufe 'em in the salt-water;
An inner soal well sours'd——

Enter Aminta.

Fran. Here comes the woman;

It may be she has meat, and may relieve us:
Let's withdraw, and mark, and then be ready!
She'll hide her store else, and so cozen us.

Aminta. How weary and how hungry am I,
How feeble and how faint is all my body!
Mine eyes, like spent lamps glowing out¹⁷, grow
heavy,

My sight forsaking me; and all my spirits,
As if they heard my passing-bell go for me,
Pull in their powers, and give me up to destiny.

Oh, for a little water! a little, little meat,
A little to relieve me, ere I perish!

I had whole floods of tears awhile that nourish'd me,
But they are all consum'd for thee, dear Albert;
For thee they are spent, for thou art dead;
Merciless Fate has swallow'd thee!—Oh! I

¹⁷ Like spent lamps glowing out.] Perhaps going out; for though glowing out may properly express the blaze which the candle often exerts before it is extinguished, yet this is not a circumstance proper to the context. The light of Aminta's eyes was fading gradually. But as the former is poetical, I would not propose a change of the text.

114 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

Grow heavy; sleep's a salve for misery:
Heav'n look on me, and either take my life,
Or make me once more happy!

Lam. She's fast asleep already.

Why should she have this blessing, and we wake still,
Wake to our wants?

Mor. This thing hath been our overthrow,
And all these biting mischiefs that fall on us
Are come thro' her means.

Fran. True; we were bound, ye all know,
For happy places, and most fertile islands,
Where we had constant promises of all things:
She turn'd the captain's mind, and must have him go
In search, I know not of who, nor to what end;
Of such a fool her brother, and such a coxcomb her
Kinsman, and we must put in every where;
She has put us in now, i'faith!

Lam. Why should we
Consume thus, and starve, have nothing to relieve us,
And she live there, that bred all our miseries,
Unroasted or unfod?

Mor. I've read in stories——

Lam. Of such restoring meats we have examples,
Thousand examples, and allow'd for excellent;
Women that have eat their children, men
Their slaves, nay their brothers; but these are nothing;
Husbands devour'd their wives (they are their chattels);
And of a schoolmaster that in a time of famine
Powder'd up all his scholars.

Mor. She's young and tidy;
In my conscience, she'll eat delicately, just like
young pork,
A little lean. Your opinion, Surgeon?

Surgeon. I think she may be made good meat; but
look,
We shall want salt.

Fran. Tush, she needs no powdering.

Surgeon. I grant you,
But to suck out the humorous parts. By all means,
Let's

THE SEA-VOYAGE. 115

Let's kill her in a chafe; she'll eat the sweeter.

Lam. Let's kill her any way, and kill her quickly:
That we might be at our meat!

Surgeon. How if the captain——

Mor. Talk not of him, he's dead, and the rest
famish'd.

Awake her, Surgeon, and cut her throat;
And then divide her, every man his share!

Fran. She wakes herself.

Aminta. Holy and good things keep me!
What cruel dreams have I had! Who are these?
Oh, they're my friends! For Heav'n's sake, gentlemen,
Give me some food to save my life, if ye
Have aught to spare! a little to relieve me,
I may bless ye! For, weak and wretched, ready to
perish,
Ev'n now I die.

Mor. You'll save a labour then:
You bred these miseries, and you shall pay for't.
We have no meat, nor where to have we know not,
Nor how to pull ourselves from these afflictions;
We are starv'd too, famish'd, all our hopes deluded;
Yet, ere we die thus, we'll have one dainty meal.

Aminta. Shall I be with ye, gentlemen?

Lam. Yes, marry shall ye; in our bellies, lady!
We love you well——

Aminta. What said you, Sir?

Lam. Marry, we'll eat your ladyship.

Fran. You that have buried us in this base island;
We'll bury you in a more noble monument.

Surgeon. Will you say your prayers, that I may
perform, lady?
We're wondrous sharp-set. Come, gentlemen;
Who are for the hinder parts?

Mor. I.

Fran. I.

Lam. And I.

Surgeon. Be patient!
They will not fall to every man's share.

Aminta. Oh, hear me,
Hear me, ye barbarous men!

Mor. Be short and pithy;
Our stomachs cannot stay a long discourse.

Surgeon. And be not fearful; for I'll kill you daintily.

Aminta. Are ye not Christians?

Lam. Why, don't Christians eat¹⁸, woman?

Enter Tibalt, Master, and Sailors.

Aminta. Eat one another? 'tis most impious.

Surgeon. Come, come!

Aminta. Oh, help, help, help!

Tib. The lady's voice!

Stand off, slaves! what do you intend, villains?
I have

Strength enough left me, if you abuse this soul, to—

Master. They would have ravish'd her, upon my life:
Speak! how was it, lady?

Aminta. Forgive 'em! 'twas their hungers.

Tib. Ha! their hungers?

Master. They would have eaten her.

Tib. Oh, damned villains!
Speak; is it true?

Surgeon. I confess an appetite.

Tib. An appetite? I'll fit ye for an appetite!
Are ye so sharp-set, that her flesh must serve you?
Murder's a main good service with your worships.
Since ye would be such devils, why did you not
Begin with one another handsomely,
And spare the woman to beget more food on?

Aminta. Good Sir——

Tib. You shall grow mummy, rascals;
I'll make ye fall to your brawns, and your buttocks,
And worry one another like keen bandogs.

Aminta. Good Sir, be merciful!

Tib. You shall know what 'tis to be damn'd canibals.

Aminta. Oh, my best friend!

¹⁸ Don't Christians eat women?] Amended in 1750.

Enter Albert.

Alb. Alas, poor heart! Here,
Here's some meat and sovereign drink to ease you.
Sit down, gentle sweet!

Aminta. I am blest'd to see you.

Tib. Stir not within forty foot of this food!
If you do, dogs——

Omnes. Oh, captain, captain, captain!

Alb. Ye shall have meat, all of you.

Tib. Captain, hear me first: Hark! 'tis so inhuman
I would not ha' the air corrupted with it. [*Whispers.*]

Alb. Oh, barbarous men! Sit down, Du-Pont! good
Master,

And honest Sailors!

Tib. But stand you off, and wait
Upon our charity; (I'll wait on you else!)
And touch nothing but what is flung to ye,
As if you were dogs; if you do,
I'll cut your fingers, friends; I'll spoil your carving!

Aminta. There, wretches, there!

Tib. Eat your meat handsomely now,
And give Heaven thanks!

Alb. There is more bread.

Tib. See,
They snarl like dogs! Eat quietly, you rascals,
Eat quietly.

Alb. There's drink too.

Tib. Come, come, I
Will fill you each your cups; ye shall not surfeit.

Aminta. And what have you discover'd?

Alb. Sweet, a paradise,
A paradise inhabited with angels,
Such as you are; their pities make 'em angels;
They gave me these viands, and supplied me
With these precious drinks.

Aminta. Shall not we see 'em?

Alb. Yes, they will see you:
Out of their charities, having heard our story,
H 3 They'll

118 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

They'll come, and comfort us, come presently;
We shall no more know wants nor miseries.

Aminta. Are they all women?

Alb. All, and all in love with us.

Aminta. How!

Alb. Don't mistake; in love with our misfortunes;
They'll cherish and relieve our men.

Tib. Do you shrug now,
And pull up your noses? You smell comfort.
See, they stretch out their legs like dottrels¹⁹,
Each like a new Saint Dennis²⁰!

Alb. Dear mistress,
When you would name me, and the women here,
Call me your brother; you I'll call my sister:
And pray observe this all.—Why do you change
colour, sweet?

Aminta. Eating too much meat.

Alb. Sauc'd with jealousy:
Fy, fy, dear saint! i'faith, you are to blame;
Are you not here? here fixed in my heart?

Omnes. Hark, hark!

Enter Rosellia, Clarinda, Crocale, Hippolita, and Julietta.

Alb. They're come! Stand ready, and look nobly,
And with all humble reverence receive 'em!
Our lives depend upon their gentle pities,
And death waits on their anger,

Mor. Sure they're fairies,

Tib. Be they devils, devils of flesh and blood,
After so long a Lent, and tedious voyage,

¹⁹ *Dottrels.*] A *dottrel* is a silly kind of bird, which imitates the actions of the fowler, 'till at last he is taken: If the fowler stretches out a leg, the bird will do so too. So, in the Devil is an Ass, by Ben Jonson, act iv. scene v.

'We have another leg strain'd for this *dottrel*.'
See Whalley's note.

²⁰ *Each like a new St. Dennis.*] The legend of *St. Dennis* affirms, that, after that saint was beheaded at Paris, he walked from thence with his head in his hand to a town four miles from the place where he was executed.

R.

R.

To

To me they're angels.

Fran. Oh, for some eringoes²¹!

Lam. Potatoes, or cantharides!

Tib. Peace, ye rogues,

That buy abilities of your apothecaries!

Had I but took the diet of green cheese

And onions for a month, I could do wonders.

Ros. Are these the jewels you run mad for? What can
You see in one of these, to whom you would
Vouchsafe a gentle touch? Can nothing persuade you
To love yourselves, and place your happiness
In cold and chaste embraces of each other?

Jul. This is from the purpose.

Hip. We had your grant
To have them as they were.

Clar. It is a beauteous creature;
And to myself I do appear deform'd,
When I consider her: And yet she is
The stranger's sister; why then should I fear?
She cannot prove my rival.

Ros. When you repent
That you refus'd my counsel, may it add
To your afflictions, that you were forewarn'd²²,
Yet leap'd into the gulph of your misfortunes!
But, have your wishes.

Master. Now she makes to us.

Aminta. I am instructed: But take heed, Albert,
You prove not false!

Alb. You are your own assurance,
And so acquainted with your own perfections,
That weak doubts cannot reach you; therefore fear not!

Ros. That you are poor and miserable men
My eyes inform me; that, without our succours,
Hope cannot flatter you to dream of safety,
The present plight you are in can resolve you;
That to be merciful is to draw near
The heav'nly essence; whether you will be

²¹ *Eringoes—Potatoes.*] See note 43 on the Elder Brother.

²² *That you were forward.*] Amended by Symphon.

120 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

Thankful I do not question; nor demand
What country bred you, what your names, what
manners:

To us it is sufficient we relieve
Such as have shapes of men; and I command you,
As we are not ambitious to know
Further of you, that you on pain of death
Presume not to enquire what we are,
Or whence deriv'd!

Alb. In all things we obey you;
And thankfully we ever shall confess
Ourselves your creatures!

Ref. You speak as becomes you.
First then, and willingly, deliver up
Those weapons we could force from you.

Alb. We lay 'em down most gladly at your feet.

Tib. I have had many a combat with a tall wench;
But never was disarm'd before.

Ref. And now, hear comfort:
Your wants shall be supplied; and tho' it be
A debt women may challenge, to be sued to,
Especially from such they may command,
We give up to you that power; and therefore
Freely each make his choice.

Fran. Then here I fix.

Mar. Nay, she is mine: I ey'd her first,

Lam. This mine!

Tib. Stay,
Good rascals! you're too forward, Sir Gallant;
You are not giving order to a tailor
For the fashion of a new suit:
Nor are you in your warehouse, master Merchant!
Stand back, and give your betters leave, your betters;
And grumble not! if you do, as I love meat,
I will so swinge the salt itch out of you.—
Captain, Master, and the rest of us,
That are brothers, and good fellows, we have been
Too late by th' ears, and yet smart for our follies:
To end therefore all future emulation,

If you please to trust to my election,
You shall say I am not partial to myself;
I doubt not give content to all.

Omnes. Agreed, agreed!

Tib. Then, but observe how learned and discreetly
I will proceed; and, as a skilful doctor
In all the quirks belonging to the game,
Read over your complexions! For you, captain,
Being first in place, and therefore first to be serv'd,
I give my judgment thus: For your aspect,
You're much inclin'd to melancholy, and that
Tells me the sullen Saturn had predominance
At your nativity; a malignant planet!
And if not qualified by a sweet conjunction
Of a soft and ruddy wench, born under Venus,
It may prove fatal; therefore to your arms
I give this rose-cheek'd virgin.

Clar. To my wish!

'Till now I ne'er was happy.

Aminta. Nor I accursed.

Tib. Master,

You're old, yet love the game, (that I perceive too)
And if not well spurr'd up, you may prove rusty;
Therefore, to help you, here's a bradamanta,
Or I am cozen'd in my calculation.

Croc. A poor old man allotted to my share!

Tib. Thou wouldst have two, nay, I think twenty:
But fear not, wench; tho' he be old he's tough:
Look on his making; he'll not fail, I warrant thee,

Ros. A merry fellow!

And were not man a creature I detest,
I could endure his company.

Tib. Here's a fair herd

Of does before me; and now for a barren one!
For tho' I like the sport, I do not love
To father children. Like the Grand Signior,
Thus I walk in my seraglio,
And view 'em as I pass; then draw I forth
My handkerchief, and having made my choice,

I thus

I thus bestow it.

Ros. On me?

Tib. On you: And now

My choice is made, to it, you hungry rascals!

Alb. Excellent!

Ros. As I love goodness²³,
It makes me smile, i'th' height of all my fears.

Clar. What a strong contention you may behold
Between my mother's mirth and anger!

Tib. Nay, no coyness! be mistress of your word!
I must and will enjoy you.

Ros. Be advis'd, fool!

Alas, I am old! how canst thou hope content
From one that's fifty?

Tib. Never talk of it;

I have known good ones at threescore and upwards:
Besides, the weather's hot,

And men that have experience fear fevers:

A temperate diet is the only physic. Your julips,

Nor guiacums, prunellos, camphire-pills, nor

Goord-water, come not near your old woman;

Youthful stomachs are still craving, tho' there be

Nothing left to stop their mouths with; and believe me

I am no frequent giver of those bounties.

Laugh on, laugh on, good gentlemen; do!

I shall make holiday and sleep, when you

Dig i'th' mines 'till your hearts ache.

Ros. A mad fellow!

Well, Sir, I'll give you hearing, and, as I like

Your wooing and discourse:—But I must tell you, Sir,

That rich widows look for great sums in present,

Or assurances of ample jointures.

Tib. That to me is easy,

For instantly I'll do it. Hear me, comrades!

Alb. What say'st thou, Tibalt?

Tib. Why, that to wooe a wench with empty hands

²³ *Aminta. As I love, &c.*] It seems clear that this speech belongs to *Rosellia*: Her preceding speeches, and those that follow from her and *Clarinda*, shew it.

Is no good heraldry ; therefore, let's to th' gold,
And share it equally ; 'twill speak for us
More than a thousand compliments or cringes,
Ditties stolen from Petrarch, or discourse
From Ovid : Besides, 'twill beget us respect ;
And if ever Fortune friend us with a bark,
Largely supply us with all provision.

Alb. Well advis'd ; defer it not.

Tib. Are ye all
Contented ?

Omnes. We are.

Tib. Let us away then !

Straight we'll return, and you shall see our riches. [*Exe.*

Ros. Since I knew what wonder and amazement was²⁴,
I ne'er was so transported.

Clar. Why weep you, gentle maid ?

There is no danger here to such as you :

Banish fear ! for with us I dare promise

You shall meet all courteous entertainment.

Croc. We esteem ourselves most happy in you.

Hip. And bless

Fortune that brought you hither.

Clar. Hark in your ear !

I love you as a friend already ; ere long

You shall call me by a nearer name : I wish

Your brother well ; I know you apprehend me.

Aminta. Ay, to my grief I do !—

Alas, good ladies, there is nothing left me

But thanks, to pay you with.

Clar. That's more than yet

You stand engaged for.

Enter Albert, Tibalt, and the rest with treasure.

Ros. So soon return'd ?

Alb. Here ; see the idol of the lapidary !

²⁴ *Ros.* Since I knew what wonder and amazement was, &c.] Seward gives this speech to *Clarinda*, to whom he thinks it must belong, 'unless *Rosellia* had spoke it below, upon sight of her own treasure.'

Tib. These pearls for which the slavish negro dives
To th' bottom of the sea!

Lam. To get which th' industrious merchant
touches

At either pole!

Fran. The never-failing purchase
Of lordships, and of honours!

Mor. The world's mistress,
That can give every thing to the possessors!

Master. For which the sailors scorn tempestuous
winds,

And spit defiance in the sea!

Tib. Speak, lady;
Look we not lovely now?

Ref. Yes, yes.—Oh, my stars!
Be now for ever blessed, that have brought
To my revenge these robbers!—Take your arrows,
And nail these monsters to the earth!

Alb. What mean you, lady?
In what have we offended?

Ref. Oh, my daughter!
And you companions with me in all fortunes,
Look on these caskets, and these jewels!
These were our own, when first we put to sea
With good Sebastian; and these the pirates
That not alone depriv'd him of this treasure,
But also took his life.

Croc. Part of my present
I well remember was mine own.

Hip. And these
Were mine.

Jul. Sure I have worn this jewel.

Ref. Wherefore do you stay then,
And not perform my command?

Alb. Oh, Heaven!
What cruel fate pursues us!

Tib. I'm well enough serv'd,
That must be offering jointures, jewels,
And precious stones, more than I brought with me.

Ref.

Ros. Why shoot you not?

Clar. Hear me, dear mother;

And when the greatest cruelty is justice,
Do not shew mercy! Death to these starv'd wretches
Is a reward, not punishment: Let 'em live
To undergo the full weight of your displeasure.
And that they may have sense to feel the torments
They have deserv'd, allow 'em some small pittance,
To linger out their tortures.

Ros. 'Tis well counsell'd!

Omnes. And we will follow't.

Alb. Hear us speak.

Ros. Peace, dogs!—

Bind 'em fast! When Fury hath giv'n way to Reason,
I will determine of their sufferings,
Which shall be horrid. Vengeance, tho' slow-pac'd,
At length o'ertakes the guilty; and the wrath
Of the incensed Powers will fall most sure
On wicked men, when they are most secure. [*Exeunt.*]

A C T IV.

Enter Raymond, Sebastian, Nicusa, and Sailors.

1 *Sailor.* **H**ERE's nothing, Sir, but poverty and
hunger;

No promise of inhabitation; neither track
Of beast, nor foot of man! We have search'd all
This rocky desert, yet can't discover any
Assurance here is, or hath been such men.

2 *Sailor.* Not a relique of any thing they wore,
Nor mark left by 'em, either to find relief,
Or to warn others from the like misfortune!
Believe it, these fellows are both false, and,
To get a little succour in their misery,
Have fram'd this cunning tale.

Raym. The ship, I know, is French, and own'd
by pirates,

If not by Albert, my arch enemy.

You told me too there was a woman with 'em,

A young and handsome woman.

Seb. There was so, Sir.

Raym. And such and such young gallants.

Nicusa. We told you true, Sir;

That they'd no means to quit this island——

Raym. And that

Amidst their mutiny, to save your lives,

You got their ship?

Seb. All is most certain, Sir.

Raym. Where are they then? where are these men,
Or woman? We are landed where your faiths
Did assure us we could not miss their fights.
For this news we took ye to our mercy,
Reliev'd ye, when the furious sea and Famine
Strove which should first devour ye; cloath'd
And cherish'd ye; us'd ye as those ye say ye are,
Fair gentlemen. Now keep your words, and shew us
This company your own free pities spoke of,
These men ye left in misery; the woman!
Men of those noble breedings ye pretend to
Should scorn to lie, or get their food with falshood;
Come, direct us.

Seb. Alas, Sir, they are gone;
But by what means, or providence, we know not.

2 Sailor. Was not the captain
A fellow of a fiery, yet brave nature,
A middle stature, and of brown complexion?

Nic. He was, Sir.

Raym. 'Twas Albert,
And my poor wretched sister!

1 Sailor. 'Twas he certain;
I ha' been at sea with him, many times at sea.

Raym. Come, shew us these men;
Shew us presently, and do not dally with us!

Seb. We left 'em here, (what should we say, Sir?)
here in

This place.

2 Sailor. The earth can't swallow 'em; they have

No

No wings; they can't fly sure.

Raym. You told us too
Of heaps of treasure, and of fums conceal'd,
That set their hearts a-fire; we see no such thing,
No such sign: What can ye say to purge ye?
What have ye done with these men?

Nic. We, Sir?

Raym. You, Sir;
For certain I believe ye saw such people.

Seb. By all that's good, by all that's pure and
honest,
By all that's holy——

Raym. I dare not credit ye;
Ye've so abus'd my hope, that now I hate ye.

Sailor. Let's put 'em in their ragged cloaths again;
Captain, for certain they are knaves; let's e'en
Deliver 'em to their old fruitful farm;
Here let 'em walk the island!

Seb. If ye do so, we shall curse your mercies.

Nic. Rather put us to sea again.

Raym. Not so;
Yet this I'll do, because ye say ye're Christians,
Tho' I hardly credit it. Bring in the boat,
And all aboard again, but these two wretches!
Yet leave 'em four days' meat. If in that time
(For I will search all nooks of this strange island)
I can discover any track of these men,
Alive or dead, I'll bear ye off, and honour ye;
If not, ye've found your graves: So, farewell!

[*Exeunt.*

Nic. That goodness dwells above, and knows us
innocent,
Comfort our lives, and at his pleasure quit us!

Seb. Come, cousin, come! Old Time will end our
story;

But no time (if we end well) ends our glory. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Rosellia, Clarinda, Crocale, Hippolita, and Julietta.

Ros. Use 'em with all the austerity that may be;
They are our slaves! Turn all those pities,

Those

Those tender reluctations that should become your sex,
 To stern anger; and when ye look upon 'em,
 Look with those eyes that wept those bitter sorrows,
 Those cruelties ye suffer'd by their rapines!
 Some five days hence that blessed hour comes,
 Most happy once to me, that knit this hand
 To my dear husband's,
 And both our hearts in mutual bands. That hour,
 ladies——

Clar. What of that hour?

Ref. Why, on that hour, daughter,
 And in the height of all our celebrations,
 Our dear remembrances of that dear man,
 And those that suffer'd with him, our fair kinsmen,
 Their lives shall fall a sacrifice to Vengeance,
 Their lives that ruin'd his; 'tis a full justice.
 I will look glorious in their bloods; and the
 Most noble spirit of Sebastian,
 That perish'd by the pride of these French pirates,
 Shall smile in Heav'n, and bless the hand that
 kill'd 'em.

Look strictly all unto your prisoners;
 For he that makes a scape beyond my vengeance,
 Or entertains a hope by your fair usage—
 Take heed, I say! she that deceives my trust—
 Again take heed! her life—and that's but light
 Neither; her life, in all the tortures
 My spirit can put on——

Omnes. We shall be careful.

Ref. Do so.

[*Exit.*]

Clar. You're angry, mother, and you're old too,
 Forgetting what men are; but we shall temper you.
 How fare your prisoners, ladies? in what forms
 Do they appear in their afflictions?

Jul. Mine fare but poorly; for so I'm commanded;
 'Tis none of my fault.

Clar. Of what sort are they?

Jul. They say they're gentlemen, but they shew
 mungrels.

Clar. How do they suffer?

Jul.

Jul. Faith, like boys;

They are fearful in all fortunes; when I smile
They kneel and beg to have that face continued,
And, like poor slaves, adore the ground I go on:
When I frown, they hang their most dejected heads,
Like fearful sheep-hounds: Shew 'em a crust of bread,
They'll faint me presently; and skip like apes
For a sup of wine. I'll whip 'em like hacknies,
Saddle 'em, ride 'em, do what I will with 'em.

Clar. Tush, these are poor things. Have they
names like Christians?

Jul. Very fair names; Franville, Lamure, and
Morillat;

And brag of great kindreds too. They offer very
handsomely,
But that I am a fool, and dare not venture.
They are sound too, o' my conscience,
Or very near upon it.

Clar. Fy! away, fool!

Jul. They tell me, if they might be brought before
you,

They would reveal things of strange consequence.

Clar. Their base poor fears!

Jul. Ay, that makes me hate 'em too;
For if they were but manly to their sufferance,
Sure I should strain a point or two.

Clar. An hour hence I will take a view of 'em,
And hear their business. Are your men thus too?

Croc. Mine? no, gentle madam; mine were not cast
In such base moulds: Afflictions, tortures,
Are names and natures of delight to my men;
All sorts of cruelties they meet like pleasures.
I have but two, the one they call Du-Pont,
Tibalt Du-Pont; the other the Ship-Master.

Clar. Have they not lives and fears?

Croc. Lives they have, madam;
But those lives never link'd to such companions
As fears or doubts.

Clar. Use 'em nobly;

And where you find fit subjects for your pities,
Let it become ye to be courteous!

My mother will not always be thus rigorous.

Hip. Mine are sailors, madam; but they sleep
soundly,

And seldom trouble me, unless it be
When they dream sometimes of fights and tempests;
Then they roar and whistle for cans of wine,
And down they fling me; and in that rage,
(For they are violent fellows) they play such freaks!—
If they have meat, they thank me; if none,
They heartily desire to be hang'd quickly;
And this is all they care.

Clar. Look to 'em diligently,
And where your pities tell ye they may deserve,
Give comfort!

Omnes. We will. [Exeunt.]

Clar. Come hither; be not frightened!

Enter Aminta.

Think not ye steal this liberty, for we give it.
Your tender innocence assures me, virgin,
You had no share in those wrongs these men did us;
I find you are not harden'd in such mischiefs.
Your brother was misled sure, foolishly misled.

Aminta. How much I fear these pities!

Clar. Certain he was, so much I pity him;
And for your sake, whose eyes plead for him; nay,
For his own sake——

Aminta. Ha!

Clar. For I see about him,
(Women have subtle eyes, and look narrowly)
Or I am much abus'd, many fair promises;
Nay, beyond those too, many shadow'd virtues.

Aminta. I think he's good.

Clar. I assure myself he will be;
And out of that assurance take this comfort,
(For I perceive your fear hath much dejected you)
I love your brother——

Aminta.

Aminta. Madam?

Clar. Nay, do not take it for a dreamt-of favour,
That comforts in the sleep, and awake vanishes:
Indeed I love him.

Aminta. Do you indeed?

Clar. You doubt still, 'cause you fear his safety!
Indeed he is the sweetest man I ever saw;
I think the best. You may hear without blushes,
And give me thanks, if you please, for my courtesy.

Aminta. Madam, I ever must:—Yet, witness Heaven,
They are hard pull'd from me.—Believe me, madam,
So many imperfections I could find—
(Forgive me, grace, for lying!)—and such wants—
('Tis to an honest use)—such poverties,
Both in his main proportion, and his mind too—
There are a hundred handsomer—(I lie lewdly)—
Your noble usage, madam, hath so bound me to you
That I must tell you——

Clar. Come, tell your worst.

Aminta. He is no husband for you:
I think you mean in that fair way.

Clar. You've hit it.

Aminta. I'm sure
You've hit my heart.—You will find him dangerous,
madam,

As fickle as the flying air, proud, jealous,
Soon glutted in your sweets, and soon forgetful.
I could say more; and tell you I've a brother,
Another brother, that so far excels this,
Both in the ornaments of man, and making——

Clar. If you
Were not his sister, I should doubt you mainly,
Doubt you for his love, you deal so cunningly.
Do not abuse me; I have trusted you
With more than life, with my first love; be careful
Of me!

Aminta. In what use, madam?

Clar. In this, lady:
Speak to him for me; you have power upon him;
Tell

Tell him I love him, tell him I dote on him;
It will become your tongue.

Aminta. Become my grave!

Oh, Fortune, oh, curs'd Fortune!

Clar. Tell him his liberty,
And all those with him, all our wealth and jewels—
Good sister, for I'll call you so——

Aminta. I shall, lady—

E'en die, I hope.

Clar. Here's meat and wine, (pray take it)
And there he lies: Give him what liberty you please,
But still conceal'd; what pleasure you shall please, sister!
He shall ne'er want again. Nay, see an you'll take it!
Why do you study thus?

Aminta. To avoid mischiefs;
If they should happen——

Clar. Go, and be happy for me.

Aminta. Oh, blind Fortune!
Yet happy thus far, I shall live to see him.
In what strange desolation lives he here now,
Sure this curtain will reveal.

Enter Albert.

Alb. Who's that? ha!
Some gentle hand, I hope, to bring me comfort;
Or, if it be my death, 'tis sweetly shadow'd.

Aminta. Have you forgot me, Sir?

Alb. My Aminta!

Aminta. She, Sir,
That walks here up and down an empty shadow;
One, that for some few hours
But wanders here, carrying her own sad coffin,
Seeking some desert place to lodge her griefs in.

Alb. Sweet sorrow, welcome! welcome, noble grief!
How got you this fair liberty to see me?
For sorrows in your shape are strangers to me.

Aminta. I come to counsel you.

Alb. You're still more welcome;
For good friends in afflictions give good counsels.

Pray

Pray then proceed.

Aminta. Pray eat first; you shew faint:
Here's wine to refresh you too.

Alb. I thank you, dear.

Aminta. Drink again!

Alb. Here's to our loves!—How! turn and weep?
Pray pledge it! This happiness we have yet left,
Our hearts are free—Not pledge it? why?
Altho' beneath the axe, this health were holy²⁵.
Why do you weep thus?

Aminta. I come to wooe you.

Alb. To wooe me, sweet? I'm woo'd and won already;
You know I'm yours. This pretty way becomes you!
But you'd deceive my sorrows; that is your intent.

Aminta. I would I could! I should not weep, but
smile.

D'ye like your meat and wine?

Alb. Like it?

Aminta. Do you like your liberty?

Alb. All these I well may like.

Aminta. Then pray like her that sent 'em. Do you
like wealth,

And most unequal'd beauty?

Alb. Peace! indeed

You'll make me angry.

Aminta. 'Would I were dead that ask it!
Then you might freely like, and I forgive you.

Alb. What like? and who? Add not more misery
To a man that's fruitful in afflictions!
Who is't you'd have me like? who sent these comforts?

Aminta. I must tell.

Alb. Be bold!

Aminta. But be you temperate!
If you be bold, I die. The young fair virgin—
(Sorrow hath made me old!) Oh, hearken,
And wisely hark—the governess's daughter,
That star that strikes this island full of wonder,

²⁵ And though *beneath*.] The slight corruption of *And though* for
Although, Mr. Seward saw and corrected with me. *Symphon.*

That blooming sweetness——

Alb. What of her?

Aminta. She sent it;

And with it—it must be out!—She dotes on you,
And must enjoy you; else no joy must find you.

Alb. And have you the patience to deliver this?

Aminta. A sister may say much, and modestly.

Alb. A sister?

Aminta. Yes, that name undid you,
Undid us both: Had you nam'd wife, sh' had fear'd you,
And fear'd the sin she follow'd; she had shunn'd, yea
Her virgin modesty had not touch'd at you:
But thinking you were free hath kindled a fire,
I fear will hardly be extinguish'd.

Alb. Indeed I play'd the fool.

Aminta. Oh, my best Sir, take heed,
Take heed of lies! Truth, tho' it trouble some minds,
Some wicked minds, that are both dark and dangerous,
Yet it preserves itself, comes off pure, innocent,
And, like the sun, tho' never so eclips'd,
Must break in glory. Oh, Sir, lie no more!

Alb. You've read me a fair lecture,
And put a spell upon my tongue for feigning.
But how will you counsel now?

Aminta. You must study to forget me.

Alb. How!

Aminta. Be patient!

Be wise and patient, it concerns you highly.
Can you lay by our loves? But why should I doubt it?
You are a man, and men may shift affections;
'Tis held no sin. To come to the point;
You must lose me; many and mighty reasons——

Alb. Hear me, *Aminta*!

Have you a man that loves you too? that feeds you?
That sends you liberty? has this great governess
A noble son too, young, and apt to catch you?
Am I, because I am in bonds, and miserable,
My health decay'd, my youth and strength half blasted,
My fortune like my waining self, for this despis'd?

Ami

Am I for this forsaken? A new love chosen,
 And my affections, like my fortunes, wanderers?
 Take heed of lying, you that chid me for it,
 And shew'd how deep a sin it was, and dangerous,
 Take heed yourself! You swore you lov'd me dearly,
 No few nor little oaths you swore, Aminta;
 Those seal'd with no small faith, I then assur'd myself:
 Oh, seek no new ways to cozen truth!

Aminta. I do not: By love itself, I love thee,
 And ever must, nor can all deaths dissolve it!

Alb. Why do you urge me thus then?

Aminta. For your safety;
 To preserve your life.

Alb. My life, I do confess, is hers; she gives it,
 And let her take it back! I yield it.
 My love's entirely thine, none shall touch at it;
 None, my Aminta, none.

Aminta. You've made me happy;
 And now I know you're mine, Fortune, I scorn thee!
 Go to your rest, and I'll sit by you: Whilst
 I've time I'll be your mate, and comfort you;
 For only I am trusted. You shall want
 Nothing, not a liberty that I can steal you.

Alb. May we not celebrate our loves, Aminta?
 And where our wishes cannot meet——

Aminta. You're wanton;
 But with cold kisses I'll allay that fever,
 (Look for no more) and that in private too!
 Believe me, I shall blush else. But, let's consider;
 We are both lost else.

Alb. Let's in, and prevent fate. [Exeunt.

Enter Crocale, Fuletta, Tibalt, and Master.

Tib. You do well to air us, ladies; we shall be musty
 else.

What are your wise wills now?

Croc. You're very crank still.

Tib. As crank as a holy friar fed with hail-stones.
 But do ye bring us out to bait, like bulls?

Master. Or are you weary of the charge ye're at?

136 THE SEA-VOYAGE.

Turn us abroad again; let us jog, ladies;
We're gross, and coarse, unfit for your sweet pleasures.

Tib. Knock off our shoes and turn's to grass.

Croc. You are
Determined still to be stubborn then?
It well becomes you.

Tib. An humour, lady, that
Contents a prisoner: A fullen fit sometimes
Serves for a second course.

Jul. Ye may as well be kind,
And gain our favours; gain meat and drink, and
lodging
To rest your bones.

Tib. My bones have borne me thus long,
And had their share of pains and recreations;
If they fail now, they are no fair companions.

Croc. Are ye thus harsh to all our sex?

Master. We can't
Be merry without a fidler: Pray strike up
Your tabors, ladies.

Croc. The fools despise us.

Jul. We know
Ye're very hungry now.

Tib. Yes; 'tis very wholesome, ladies;
For we that have gross bodies must be careful.
Have ye no piercing air to stir our stomachs?
We are beholding to ye for our ordinary.

Jul. Why, slaves, 'tis in our power to hang ye.

Master. Very likely:
'Tis in our powers then to be hang'd, and scorn ye.
Hanging's as sweet to us as dreaming to you.

Croc. Come, be more courteous.

Jul. Do, and then ye shall
Be pleas'd, and have all necessaries.

Tib. Give me
Some ratsbane then.

Croc. And why ratsbane, monsieur?

Tib. We live like vermin here, and eat up your
cheese,
Your mouldy cheese, that none but rats would bite at;
Therefore

Therefore 'tis just that ratsbane should reward us.
We are unprofitable, and our ploughs are broken;
There is no hope of harvest this year, ladies.

Jul. Ye shall have all content.

Master. Ay, an we'll serve your uses.
I'd rather serve hogs, there is more delight in't;
Your greedy appetites are never satisfied;
Like hungry camels just, sleeping or waking
You chew the cud still.

Croc. By this hand we'll starve ye.

Master. 'Tis a noble courtesy: I had as lief ye
Should famish me, as founder me; to be
Jaded to death, is only fit for a hackney.
Here be certain tarts of tar about me,
And parcels of potargo in my jerkin;
As long as these last——

Jul. Which will not last ever.

Tib. Then we'll eat one another, like good fellows.
A shoulder of his for a haunch of mine!

Jul. 'Tis excellent.

Tib. 'Twill be, as we'll dress it, ladies.

Croc. Why sure ye are not men?

Master. Ye had best come search us;
A seaman is seldom without a salt eel.

Tib. I am bad enough,
And in my nature a notorious wench;
And yet ye make me blush at your immodesty.
Tell me, good Master, didst e'er see such things?

Master. I could like 'em, tho' they were lewdly giv'n,
If they could say no; but, fy on 'em!
They gape like oysters.

Tib. Well, ye may hang, or starve us,
But your commanding impudence shall never
Fear us²⁶. Had ye by blushing signs, soft cunnings,
Crept into us, and shew'd us your necessities;
We'd met your purposes, supplied your wants.
We are no faints, ladies:

²⁶ Fear us.] i. e. Make us fear.

I love a good wench as I love my life,
 And with my life I will maintain my love ;
 But such a fordid impudence I'll spit at.
 Let's to our dens again ! Come, noble Master !
 You know our minds, ladies : This is the faith
 In which we'll die. [*Exeunt Tibalt and Master.*]

Croc. I do admire 'em.

Ful. They
 Are noble fellows, and they shall not want
 For this.

Croc. But see, Clarinda comes. Farewell !
 I'll to my charge. [*Exit.*]

Enter Clarinda.

Clar. Bring out those prisoners now, and let me
 see 'em,
 And hear their business.

Ful. I will, madam. [*Exit.*]

Clar. I hope she hath prevail'd upon her brother,
 Sh' has a sweet tongue, and can describe the happiness
 My love is ready to fling on him.
 And sure he must be glad, and certain wonder,
 And bless the hour that brought him to this island.
 I long to hear the full joy that he labours with.

Enter Julietta, Morillat, Franville, and Lamure.

Mor. Bless thy divine beauty !

Fran. Mirror of sweetness !

Lam. Ever springing brightness !

Clar. Nay, stand up, gentlemen ; and leave your
 flatteries.

Mor. She calls us gentlemen ! Sure we shall have
 Some meat now !

Clar. I am a mortal creature ; worship Heav'n,
 And give these attributes to their divinities.
 Methinks you look but thin.

Mor. Oh, we are starv'd,
 Immortal beauty.

Lam. We're all poor starv'd knaves.

Fran. Neither liberty nor meat, lady.

Mor.

Mor. We were handsome men, and gentlemen, and sweet men,

And were once gracious in the eyes of beauties;
But now we look like rogues, like poor starv'd rogues.

Clar. What would ye do, if ye were to die now?

Fran. Alas, we were prepar'd. If you will hang us,
Let's have a good meal or two to die with,
To put us in heart!

Mor. Or if you'll drown us,
Let us be drunk first, that we may die merrily.
And bless the founders!

Clar. Ye sha'n't die so hastily.
What dare ye do to deserve my favour?

Lam. Put us to any service.

Fran. Any bondage,
Let us but live!

Mor. We'll get a world of children;
For we know ye're heinously provided that way:
And you shall beat us when we offend you,
Beat us abundantly, and take our meat from us.

Clar. These are weak abject things, that shew ye
poor ones.

What's the great service ye so oft have threaten'd,
If ye might see me, and win my favour?

Jul. That business of discov'ry?

Mor. Oh, I'll tell ye, lady.

Lam. And so will I.

Fran. And I. Pray let me speak first!

Mor. Good no confusion!

We are before a lady that knows manners:
And, by the next meat I shall eat 'tis certain,
This little gentlewoman that was taken with us——

Clar. Your captain's sister? she you mean?

Mor. Ay, ay;

She is the business that we'd open to you.
You're cozen'd in her.

Clar. How! what is't you would open²⁷?

²⁷ How! what is't you would open?] This speech, so evidently *Clarinda's*, is in all the editions given to *Lamure*.

Fran. She is no sister.

Mor. Good Sirs, how quick you are!
She is no sister, madam.

Fran. She is his——

Mor. Peace, I say!

Clar. What is she?

Mor. Faith, sweet lady,
She's, as am an would say, his——

Clar. What?

Lam. His mistress.

Mor. Or, as some new translators read, his——

Clar. Oh me!

Mor. And why he should delude you thus, unless
He meant some villainy—These ten weeks he has
Had her at sea, for his own proper appetite.

Lam. His cabin-mate, I'll assure you.

Clar. No sister, say ye?

Mor. No more than I am brother to your beauty.
I know not why he should juggle thus.

Clar. Do not lie to me!

Mor. If ye find me lie, lady, hang me empty!

Clar. How am I fool'd! Away with 'em, Juletta,
And feed 'em:—

But, hark ye, with such food as they've giv'n me,
New misery!

Fran. Nor meat nor thanks for all this?

Clar. Make 'em more wretched.

Oh, I could burst! curse and kill now,
Kill any thing I meet. Juletta, follow me,
And call the rest along!

Jul. We follow, madam.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Albert and Aminta.

Aminta. I must be gone now, else she may suspect me.
How shall I answer her?

Alb. Tell her directly.

Aminta. That were too sudden, too improvident:
Fires of this nature must be put out cunningly;
They will waste all come near 'em else. Farewell,
Once

Once more !

Alb. Farewell, and keep my love entire !

Nay, kiss me once again ! Methinks we should not part.

Aminta. Oh, be wife, Sir.

Alb. Nay, one kiss more !

Aminta. Indeed you're wanton ;

We may be taken too.

Enter Clarinda, Fuletta, Crocale and Hippolita.

Clar. Out, thou base woman !

By Heaven, I'll shoot 'em both !

Croc. Nay, stay, brave lady, hold !

A sudden death cuts off a nobler vengeance.

Clar. Am I made bawd to your lascivious meetings ?

Are ye grown so wise in sin ? Shut up that villain :

And, firrah, now expect my utmost anger.

Let him there starve !

Alb. I mock at your mischiefs ! [Exit.

Clar. Tie that false witch unto that tree ; there let

The savage beasts gnaw off her sweetness, and snakes

Embrace her beauties ; tie her, and watch that none

Relieve her !

Hip. We could wish you better fortune, lady ;

But dare not help you.

Aminta. Be your own friends ; I thank ye ! [Exe.

Now, only my last audit, and my greatest !

Oh, Heav'n ! be kind unto me ;

And, if it be thy will, preserve——

Enter Raymond.

Raym. Who's this ?

Sure 'tis a woman. I have trod this place,

And found much footing ; now I know 'tis peopled.

Ha ! let me see ! it is her face ! Oh, Heav'n !

Turn this way, maid !

Aminta. Oh, Raymond, oh, brother !

Raym. Her tongue too ! 'tis my sister ! What rude
hand——

Nay, kiss me first ; oh, joy !

Aminta.

Aminta. Fly, fly, dear brother !
You are lost else.

Jul. A man, a man, a new man !

Raym. What are these ?

Enter Juletta, Crocale, and Clarinda.

Croc. An enemy, an enemy !

Clar. Dispatch him ;

Take him off ; shoot him straight !

Raym. I dare not use my sword, ladies,
Against such comely foes.

Aminta. Oh, brother, brother !

Clar. Away with 'em, and in dark prisons bind 'em !
One word replied, ye die both. Now, brave mother,
Follow thy noble anger, and I'll help thee ! [*Exeunt.*

A C T V.

Enter Rosellia, Clarinda, Crocale, Juletta, and Hippolita.

Ros. **I** AM deaf to all your intreaties ; she that
moves me

For pity or compassion to these pirates,
Digs up her father's, or her brother's tomb,
And spurns about their ashes.—

Couldst thou remember what a father thou
Hadst once, 'twould steel thy heart 'gainst foolish pity:
By his memory, and the remembrance of
His dear embraces, I am taught, that in
A noble cause revenge is noble : And they
Shall fall the sacrifices, to appease
His wandring ghost and my incensed fury.

Clar. The new-come prisoner too ?

Ros. He too :—Yet, that we may learn
Whether they are the same, or near allied
To those that forc'd me to this cruel course,

Better

Better their poor allowance, and permit 'em
To meet together, and confer,
Within the distance of your ear ! Perhaps
They may discover something that may kill
Despair in me, and be a means to save 'em
From certain ruin.

Croc. That shall be my charge.

Rof. Yet, to prevent
All hope of rescue (for this new-come captain
Hath both a ship and men not far off from us,
Tho' ignorant to find the only port
That can yield entrance to our happy island)
Guard the place strongly ; and, ere the next sun
Ends his diurnal progress, I will be
Happy in my revengé, or set 'em free. [Exeunt.

Enter Crocale, Juletta, and Hippokita.

A table furnished.

Croc. So, serve it plentifully, and lose not time
T' enquire the cause ; there is a main design
That hangs upon this bounty. See the table
Furnish'd with wine too ; that discovers secrets
Which tortures cannot open : Open the doors too
O' th' several prisons, and give all free entrance
Into this room ! Undiscover'd I can here mark all.

Enter Tibalt and Master.

Here's captain Careless, and the tough Ship-Master ;
The slaves are nos'd like vultures : How wild they
look !

Tib. Ha !

The mystery of this some good hobgoblin
Rise and reveal !

Master. I am amaz'd at it ;
Nor can I found th' intent.

Tib. Is not this bread ?
Substantial bread, not painted ?

Master. But take heed !
You may be poison'd.

Tib.

Tib. I am sure I'm famish'd;
And famine, as the wife man says, gripes the guts
As much as any mineral. This may be treacle
Sent to preserve me after a long fast;
Or, be it viper's spittle, I'll run the hazard.

Master. We're past all fear; I'll take part with you.

Tib. Do:
And now, i'faith, how do you feel yourself?
I find great ease in't. What's here? wine, an't be
Thy will! strong lusty wine! [*drinks.*] Well, fools
may talk

Of Mithridate, cordials, and elixirs ;
But from my youth this was my only physick.
Here's a colour !

What lady's cheek, tho' cerus'd o'er, comes near it?
It sparkles too, hangs out diamonds: Oh,
My sweetheart, how I will hug thee! again, and
again!

They are poor drunkards, and not worth thy favours,
That number thy moist kisses in these crytals.

Master. But, monsieur,
Here are suckets, and sweet dishes.

Tib. Tull! boys-meat!
I'm past it: Here is strong food, fit for men,
Nectar, old lad! Mistress of merry hearts,
Once more I am bold with you.

Master. Take heed, man!
Too much will breed distemper.

Tib. Hast thou liv'd at sea
The most part of thy life, where to be sober,
While we have wine aboard, is capital treason,
And dost thou preach sobriety?

Master. Prithee, forbear;
We may offend in it; we know not for whom
It was provided.

Tib. I am sure for me ;
Therefore, *footra!* when I am full, let 'em hang me ;
I care not !

Enter

*Enter Albert, Aminta, Raymond, Lamure, Morillat,
and Franville, severally.*

Master. This has been his temper ever.
See, provoking dishes; candied eringoos;
And potatoes!

Tib. I'll not touch 'em; I will drink;
But not a bit on a march;
I'll be an eunuch rather.

Master. Who are these?

Tib. Marry, who you will;
I keep my text here.

Alb. Raymond?

Raym. Albert?

Tib. Away! I'll be drunk alone;
Keep off, rogues, or I'll belch ye into air;
Not a drop here!

Aminta. Dear brother, put not in your eyes such
anger!

Those looks, poison'd with fury, shot at him,
Reflect on me. Oh, brother, look milder, or
The crystal of his temperance will turn
Them on yourself.

Alb. Sir, I have fought you long
To find your pardon; you have plough'd the ocean
To wreak your vengeance on me, for the rape
Of this fair virgin. Now our fortune guides us
To meet on such hard terms; that we need rather
A mutual pity of our present state,
Than to expostulate of breaches past,
Which cannot be made up. And tho' it be
Far from your power to force me to confess
That I have done you wrong, or, such submission
Failing to make my peace, to vent your anger,
You being yourself slav'd, as I, to others;
Yet for your sister's sake, her blessed sake,
In part of recompense of what sh' has suffer'd
For my rash folly, the contagion
Of my black actions catching hold upon

Her purer innocence, I crave your mercy ;
 And wish, however several motives kept us
 From being friends while we had hope to live,
 Let death, which we expect, and cannot fly from,
 End all contention !

Tib. Drink upon it ; it
 Is a good motion ! ratify't in wine,
 And 'tis authentical !

Raym. When I consider
 The ground of our long difference, and look on
 Our not-to-be-avoided miseries,
 It doth beget in me, I know not how,
 A soft religious tenderness ; which tells me,
 Tho' we have many faults to answer for
 Upon our own account, our fathers' crimes
 Are in us punish'd. Oh, Albert, the course
 They took to leave us rich was not honest ;
 Nor can that friendship last which Virtue joins not.
 When first they forc'd th' industrious Portugals
 From their plantations in the Happy Islands——

Croc. This is that I watch for.

Raym. And did omit no tyranny which men,
 Inur'd to spoil and mischief, could inflict
 On the griev'd sufferers ; when by lawless rapine
 They reap'd the harvest which their labours sow'd ;
 And not content to force 'em from their dwelling,
 But laid for 'em at sea, to ravish from 'em
 The last remainder of their wealth ; then, then,
 After a long pursuit, each doubting other,
 As guilty of the Portugals' escape,
 They did begin to quarrel, like ill men :
 (Forgive me, piety, that I call 'em so !)
 No longer love or correspondence holds
 Than it is cemented with prey or profit :
 Then did they turn those swords they oft had bloodied
 With innocent gore, upon their wretched selves,
 And paid the forfeit of their cruelty
 Shewn to Sebastian and his colony,
 By being fatal enemies to each other.

Thence

Thence grew Aminta's rape, and my desire
 To be reveng'd. And now observe the issue!
 As they for spoil forgot compassion
 To women, (who should ever be exempted
 From the extremities of a lawful war)
 We now, young able men, are fall'n into
 The hands of women; that, against the soft,
 Soft tenderness familiar to their sex,
 Will shew no mercy.

Enter Crocalé.

Croc. None, unless you shew us
 Our long-lost husbands.
 We are those Portugals you talk'd of.

Raym. Stay!

I met upon the sea in a tall ship
 Two Portugals, famish'd almost to death.

Tib. Our ship, by this wine,
 And those the rogues that stole her,
 Left us to famish in the Barren Islands!

Raym. Some such tale they told me;
 And something of a woman, which I find
 To be my sister.

Croc. Where are these men?

Raym. I

Left 'em, supposing they'd deluded me
 With forg'd tales, in the island, where they said
 They had liv'd many years, the wretched owners
 Of a huge mass of treasure.

Alb. The same men,
 And that the fatal muck we quarrell'd for.

Croc. They were Portugals, you say?

Raym. So they profess'd.

Croc. They may prove such men as may save your lives:
 And so much I am taken with fair hope,
 That I will hazard life to be resolv'd on't.
 How came you hither?

Raym. My ship lies by the river's mouth;
 That can convey ye to these wretched men

Which you desire to see.

Croc. Back to your prisons,
And pray for the success! If they be those
Which I desire to find, you're safe; if not,
Prepare to die tomorrow! for the world
Cannot redeem ye.

Alb. Howe'er, we are arm'd
For either fortune.

[Exit.]

Tib. What must become of me now,
That I am not dismiss'd?

Croc. Oh, Sir, I purpose
To have your company.

Tib. Take heed, wicked woman!
I'm apt to mischief now.

Croc. You can't be so
Unkind, to her that gives you liberty.

Tib. No,
I shall be too kind, that's the devil on't!
I've had store of good wine; and, when I'm drunk,
Joan is a lady to me, and I shall lay
About me, like a lord. I feel strange motions!
Avoid me, temptation!

Croc. Come, Sir; I'll help you in. [Exeunt.]

Enter Sebastian and Nicusa.

Nicusa. What may that be
That moves upon the lake?

Seb. Still it draws nearer;
And now I plainly can discern it:
It is the French ship.

Nicusa. In it a woman,
Who seems t' invite us to her.

Seb. Still she calls
With signs of love to hasten to her:
So lovely hope doth still appear,
I feel nor age, nor weakness.

Nicusa. Tho' it bring death,
To us 'tis comfort, and deserves a meeting:
Or else Fortune, tir'd with what we've suffered,

And

And in it overcome, as it may be,
Now sets a period to our misery.

[*Exeunt.*

[*Horrid music,*

Enter severally Raymond, Albert, and Aminta.

Raym. What dreadful sounds are these?

Aminta. Infernal music,

Fit for a bloody feast.

Alb. It seems prepar'd

To kill our courages, ere they divorce
Our souls and bodies.

Raym. But they that fearless fall,
Deprive them of their triumph.

*An altar prepar'd. Enter Rosellia, Clarinda, Julietta,
Hippolita, &c.*

Aminta. See the furies;

In their full trim of cruelty!

Ros. 'Tis the last

Duty that I can pay to my dead lord.

Set out the altar! I myself will be

The priest, and boldly do those horrid rites

You shake to think on. Lead these captains nearer;

For they shall have the honour to fall first

To my Sebastian's ashes. And now, wretches,

As I am taught already, that you are,

And lately by your free confession,

French pirates, and the sons of those I hate

E'en equal with the devil; hear, with horror,

What 'tis invites me to this cruel course,

And what you are to suffer! No Amazons we,

But women of Portugal, that must have from you

Sebastian and Nicusa: We are they

That groan'd beneath your fathers' wrongs! We are

Those wretched women

Their injuries pursu'd and overtook,

And from the sad remembrance of our losses

We are taught to be cruel. When we were forc'd

From that sweet air we breath'd in, by their rapine,

And sought a place of being, as the seas
 And winds conspir'd with their ill purposes,
 To load us with afflictions, in a storm
 That fell upon us the two ships that brought us,
 To seek new fortunes in an unknown world,
 Were sever'd; th' one bore all the able men,
 Our treasure and our jewels; in the other
 We women were embark'd, and fell upon,
 After long tossing in the troubled main,
 This pleasant island; but in few months
 The men that did conduct us hither died:
 We long before had given our husbands lost.
 Remembering what we'd suffer'd by the French,
 We took a solemn oath, ne'er to admit
 The curs'd society of men. Necessity
 Taught us those arts, not usual to our sex;
 And the fertile earth yielding abundance to us,
 We did resolve, thus shap'd like Amazons
 To end our lives: But when you arriv'd here,
 And brought as presents to us our own jewels,
 Those which were borne in the other ship—
 How can ye hope to 'scape our vengeance?

Aminta. It boots not then to swear our innocence?

Alb. Or that we never forc'd it from the owners?

Raym. Or that there are a remnant of that wreck,
 And not far off?

Ref. All you affirm, I know, is
 But to win time; therefore prepare your throats;
 The world shall not redeem ye! And, that your cries
 May find no entrance to our ears, to move
 Pity in any, bid loud music sound
 Their fatal knells! If ye have prayers, use 'em
 Quickly, to any power will own ye: But—

Enter Crocale, Sebastian, Nicusa, and Tibalt.

Ha! who are these? what spectacles of misfortune?
 Why are their looks so full of joy and wonder?

Croc. Oh, lay by
 These instruments of death, and welcome to

Your

Your arms what you durst never hope t' embrace!
 This is Sebastian; this Nicusa, madam;
 Preserv'd by miracle. Look up, dear Sir,
 And know your own Rosellia! be not lost
 In wonder and amazement; or if nature
 Can, by instinct, instruct you what it is
 To be blest'd with the name of father, freely
 Enjoy't in this fair virgin!

Seb. Tho' my miseries,
 And many years of wants I have endur'd,
 May well deprive me of the memory
 Of all joys past; yet, looking on this building,
 This ruin'd building of a heav'nly form
 In my Rosellia, I must remember
 I am Sebastian.

Ros. Oh, my joys!

Seb. And here,
 I see a perfect model of thyself,
 As thou wert when thy choice first made thee mine:
 These cheeks and fronts, tho' wrinkled now with time,
 Which art cannot restore, had equal pureness
 Of natural white and red, and as much ravishing:
 Which, by fair order and succession, I see
 Descend on her; and may thy virtues wind
 Into her form, and make her a perfect dower,
 No part of thy sweet goodness wanting to her!
 I will not now, Rosellia, ask thy fortunes,
 Nor trouble thee with hearing mine;
 Those shall hereafter serve to make glad hours
 In their relation. All past wrongs forgot,
 I'm glad to see you, gentlemen; but most,
 That it is in my power to save your lives;
 You sav'd ours, when we were near starv'd at sea,
 And I despair not—for, if she be mine,
 Rosellia can deny Sebastian nothing.

Ros. She does give up herself,
 Her power and joys, and all, to you, to be
 Discharged of 'em as too burdensome;
 Welcome in any shape!

Seb. Sir, in your looks²⁸, I read
Your suit of my Clarinda; she is yours.
And, lady, if't be in me to confirm
Your hopes in this brave gentleman, presume
I am your seryant.

Alb. We thank you, Sir.

Aminta. Oh, happy hour!

Alb. Oh, my dear Aminta,
Now all our fears are ended.

Tib. Here I fix;
She's mettle, steel to the back, and will cut
My leaden dagger, if not us'd with discretion.

Croc. You're still no changeling.

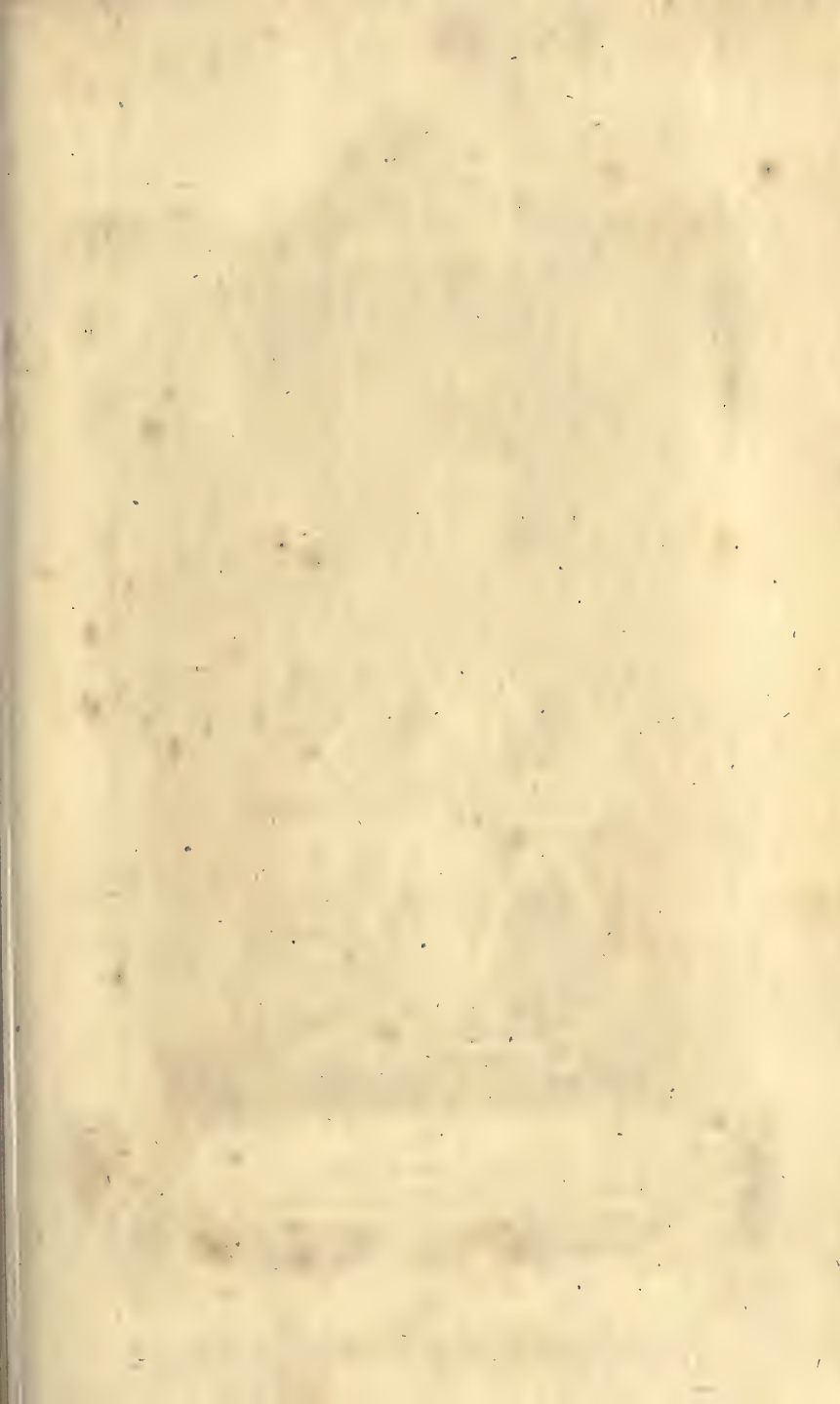
Seb. Nay, all look chearfully; for none shall be
Denied their lawful wishes. When a while
We've here refresh'd ourselves, we will return
To our sev'ral homes: And well that Voyage ends,
That makes of deadly enemies, faithful friends!

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

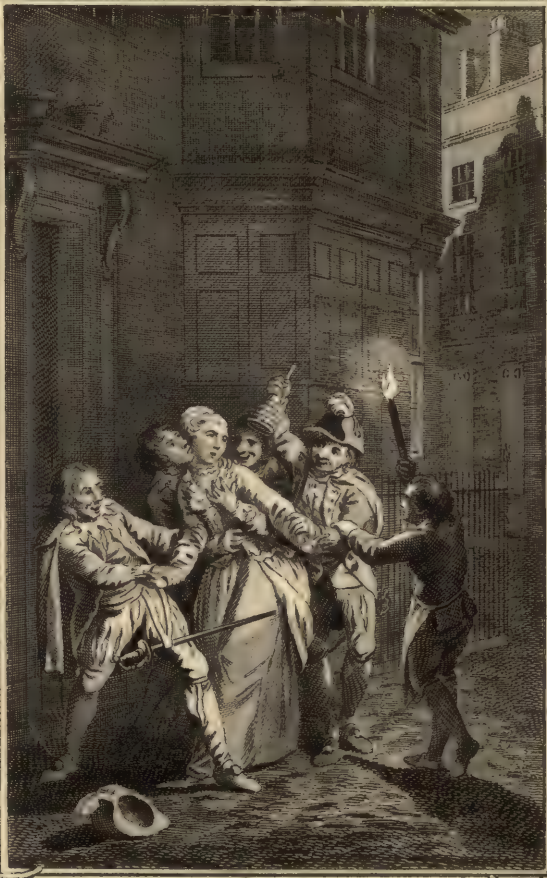
²⁸ *Sir, in your looks,*

I read your suit of my Clarinda;—] Perhaps the reader would wish to know whom the old gentleman means here. I can think of no one but *Nicusa* his nephew. Yet this is but a guess, and if the reader imagines any one of the company (*Albert* and *Tibalt* excepted) deserves *Clarinda* better than her cousin, let him reject mine, and enjoy his own opinion *Symphon.*

When *Aminta* depreciates *Albert*, in her conversation with *Clarinda*, she recommends *Raymond* to her: It is most likely, therefore, he is the person intended by the Poet to possess her.



THE COXCOMB



Pedro. *Let go the Wench!*
 Silvio. *Let you go the Wench!*
 Viola. *Oh, gentlemen, as you had mothers*

Act I.

W. A. Rooker delin.

C. Gignion sculp.

Published as the Act directs, Dec. 22, 1777, by T. Sherlock.

T H E
C O X C O M B.

A C O M E D Y.

The Commendatory Verses by Gardiner and Hills speak of this Comedy as the production of Fletcher alone; but the Prologue mentions it as the joint performance of both Authors. It was first printed in the folio of 1647; and appears to have been revived at the Theatre Royal about the end of the last century, when a prologue was spoken by Joe Haines. We do not know of any performance of it since that time.

DRAMATIS

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Antonio, *the Coxcomb.*

Mercury, *fellow-traveller with Antonio.*

Ricardo, *a young gentleman in love with Viola.*

Uberto, }
Pedro, } *three merry gentlemen, friends to Ricardo.*
Silvio, }

Valerio, *a country gentleman.*

Curio, *kinsman to Antonio.*

Justice, *a shallow one.*

Andrugio, *father to Viola.*

Alexander, *servant to Mercury's Mother.*

Mark, *the Justice's clerk.*

Rowland, *servant to Andrugio.*

Tinker.

Constable.

Watch.

Drawer.

Musicians.

W O M E N.

Maria, *wife to Antonio.*

Viola, *daughter to Andrugio.*

Mother to Mercury.

Nan, }
Madge, } *milk-maids.*

Dorothy, *the Tinker's trull.*

SCENE, ENGLAND¹.

¹ *England, France.] As the scene never changes from England through the whole play, and, as I remember, the word France does not occur above once in this piece, I have made no scruple to expel and explode what never possibly could have stood in the Authors manuscript.*

Symphon.

PROLOGUE.

P R O L O G U E.

THIS Comedy, long forgot, by some thought dead,
 By us preserv'd, once more doth raise her head,
 And to your noble censures does present
 Her outward form, and inward ornament.
 Nor let this smell of arrogance, since 'tis known,
 The makers, that confess'd it for their own,
 Were this way skilful, and without the crime
 Of flatteries I may say may please the time.
 The work itself too, when it first came forth,
 In the opinion of men of worth,
 Was well receiv'd and favour'd, tho' some rude
 And harsh among th' ignorant multitude,
 (That relish gross food better than a dish
 That's cook'd with care, and serv'd in to the wish
 Of curious palates) wanting wit and strength
 Truly to judge, condemn'd it for the length²:

That

² ——— condemn'd it for the length;

That fault's reform'd.] In the Stationer's Preface to the edition of 1647, we have these words. 'When these *Comedies* and *Tragedies* were presented on the stage, the *actors* omitted some *scenes* and passages (with the *Authors* consent) as occasion led 'em; and when private friends desired a copy, they then (and justly too) transcribed what they *acted*. But now you have both all that was *acted*, and all *that was not*; even the perfect full originals, without the least mutilation: So that were the *Authors* living (and sure they can never die) they themselves would challenge neither *more* nor *less* than what is here published.'—— But what a glaring contradiction to this whole passage are the words of the prologue, cited at the head of this note? Was it not condemn'd for its length by the ignorant multitude? And upon reviving of it, is it not as plain as words can make it, that it was mutilated then? What other sense can we put upon this passage? *That fault's reform'd*—Who the curtailer, or curtailers were, is not possible now to be known: I could have wished that he, or they, who undertook the charge of *reforming the length* of this piece, had had sufficient *wit and strength* to have gone through that business neatly. But it seems as if his or their judgment was as little in the shortning, as the rabble's was condemning it for its length. Had we but the original manuscript, I don't doubt but we should see a strange difference betwixt that, and the

P R O L O G U E.

That fault's reform'd; and now 'tis to be tried
Before such judges 'twill not be denied
A free and noble hearing; nor fear I
But 'twill deserve to have free liberty,
And give you cause (and with content) to say,
Their care was good that did revive this play.

the play, as it now stands. The first note on this performance is a specimen, to let the reader see what strange work has been made by the reviver, or revivers, of this piece: and how little he or they thought on (supposing they knew it) that rule of Horace,

——— *Versate diu, quid ferre recusant,*

Quid valeant Humeri ———

Symphon.

The Stationer's Preface is no 'glaring contradiction to the prologue,' but rather confirms the assertion, than the 'Actors (with the Author's consent) omitted scenes and passages, as occasion led them, and afterwards transcribed what they acted: But the book-sellers gave all that was acted, and all that was not' Who the curtailers were, therefore, is easily known; certainly THE ACTORS, *with the AUTHOR'S CONSENT.*

T H E

C O X C O M B.

A C T I.

Enter Ricardo and Viola.

Ric. **L**ET us make use of this stol'n privacy,
And not lose time in protestation, mistress!
For 'twere in me a kind of breach of faith,
To say again I love you.

Viola. Sweet, speak softly;
For tho' the venture of your love to me
Meets with a willing and a full return,
Should it arrive unto my father's knowledge,
This were our last discourse.

Ric. How shall he know it?

Viola. His watching cares are such, for my advancement,
That every where his eye is fix'd upon me:
This night, that does afford us some small freedom,
At the request and much intreaty of
The mistress of the house, was hardly given me;
For I am never suffer'd to stir out,
But he hath spies upon me: Yet, I know not,
You have so won upon me, that could I think
You would love faithfully (tho' to entertain
Another thought of you would be my death)
I should adventure on his utmost anger.

Ric. Why, do you think I can be false?

Viola. No, faith!
You have an honest face; but, if you should —

Ric.

Ric. Let all the stored vengeance of Heav'n's justice——

Viola. No more ! I do believe you. The dance ended, Which this free woman's guests have vow'd to have Ere they depart, I will make home, and store me With all the jewels, chains, and gold are trusted Unto my custody ; and at the next corner To my father's house, before one, at the furthest, Be ready to receive me !

Ric. I desire
No bond beyond your promise. Let's go in !
To talk thus much before the door may breed Suspicion.

Enter Mercury and Antonio.

Viola. Here are company too.

Ric. Away !
Those Powers that prosper true and honest loves
Will bless our undertakings.

Viola. 'Tis my wish, Sir. [*Exe. Ric. & Viola.*]

Merc. Nay, Sir, excuse me ! I have drawn you to Too much expence already in my travel, And you have been too forward in your love, To make my wants your own ; allow me manners ! Which you must grant I want, should I encrease The bond in which your courtesies have tied me, By still consuming of you : Give me leave To take mine own ways now, and I shall often, With willingness, come to visit you, and thank you.

Ant. By this hand, I could be angry ! What do you think me ?

Must we, that have so long time been as one,
Seen cities, countries, kingdoms, and their wonders,
Been bedfellows, and in our various journey
Mix'd all our observations, part (as if
We were two carriers at two several ways,
And as the fore-horse guides, cry God be with you)
Without or compliment, or ceremony ?
In travellers that know Transalpine garbs,

Tho'

Tho' our designs are ne'er so serious, friend,
It were a capital crime; it must not be;
Nay, what is more, you shall not. You ere long
Shall see my house, and find what I call mine
Is wholly at your service.

Merc. 'Tis this tires me!—

Sir, I were easily woo'd, if nothing else
But my will lay i'th' choice; but 'tis not so:
My friends and kindred, that have part of me,
And such on whom my chiefest hopes depend,
Justly expect the tender of my love
After my travel; then my own honesty
Tells me 'tis poor, having indifferent means
To keep me in my quality and rank,
At my return, to tire another's bounty,
And let mine own grow lusty: Pardon me!

Ant. I will not, cannot; to conclude, I dare not:
Can any thing conferr'd upon my friend
Be burdensome to me? For this excuse,
Had I no reason else, you should not leave me;
By a traveller's faith, you should not! I have said!
And then, you know my humour, there's no contending.

Merc. Is there no way to 'scape this inundation?
I shall be drown'd with folly, if I go;
And, after nine days, men may take me up
With my gall broken.

Ant. Are you yet resolv'd?

Merc. 'Would you would spare me!

Ant. By this light, I cannot,
By all that may be sworn by!

Merc. Patience help me,
And Heaven grant his folly be not catching!
If't be, the town's undone: I now would give
A reasonable sum of gold to any sheriff
That would but lay an execution on me,
And free me from his company. While he was abroad,
His want of wit and language kept him dumb;
But Balaam's ass will speak now, without spurring.

Ant. Speak, have I won you?

Enter

Enter Servant and Musicians.

Merc. You're not to be resisted.

Serv. Be ready, I entreat you! The dance done,
Besides a liberal reward, I have
A bottle of sherry in my power shall beget
New crotchets in your heads.

Musicians. Tush, fear not us!
We'll do our parts.

Serv. Go in.

Ant. I know this fellow.
Belong you to the house?

Serv. I serve the mistress.

Ant. Pretty and short! Pray you, Sir, then inform her,
Two gentlemen are covetous to be honour'd
With her fair presence.

Serv. She shall know so much.
This is a merry night with us, and forbids not
Welcome to any that looks like a man:
I'll guide you the way.

Ant. Nay, follow! I've a trick in't. [Exeunt.]

*Enter Uberto, Silvio, Ricardo, Maria, Pedro, Portia,
Viola, with others.*

Uberto. Come, where is this masque³? Fairest, for
our cheer,
Our thanks and service; may you long survive
To joy in many of these nights!

Maria. I thank you!

Uberto. We must have music too; or else you give us
But half a welcome.

³ Come, where's this masque? fairest, for our cheer,
Our thanks and service, may you long survive
To joy in many of these nights.

Maria. I thank you.

Uberto. We must have music too, or else you give us
But half a welcome.

Maria. Pray you, Sir, excuse me.

Silvio. By no means, lady.

Uberto. We'll crown our liberal feast,
With some delightful strain fitting your love

Maria. Pray you, Sir, excuse me!

Silvio. By no means, lady.

Uberto. We'll crown your liberal feast
With some delightful strain, fitting your love
And this good company.

Maria. Since you enforce it,
I will not plead the excuse of want of skill,
Or be or nice or curious: Every year
I celebrate my marriage-night, and will
'Till I see my absent husband.

Uberto. 'Tis fit freedom.

Silvio. Ricardo, thou art dull.

Enter Servant.

Ric. I shall be lighter when
I've had a heat.

Maria. Now, Sir, the news?

Serv. Mistress,
There are two gentlemen——

Maria. Where?

Serv. Complimenting
Who should first enter.

Maria. What are they?

And this good company.

Maria. Since you enforce it,

I will not plead the excuse of want of skill.] *Quod dedit principium adveniens* may full as well be applied to the curtailer of this comedy, as the booby captain of whom it was first spoke. That a masque was in the original is plain from the question, *Where's this masque?* but it had been better never to have told us that, except it had been exhibited. Again, if *they were to have music*, some delightful strain; who was to play? *Maria* it seems, for she says, *she won't plead the excuse of want of skill*, but 'tis too too plain she does no such thing. Farther, we have a little lower a dance, but 'tis a dance without music, and yet 'tis quite clear the performers were actually in the house.

Symphon.

We do not believe any thing *written* by the Authors is omitted:—The masque was, we apprehend, only an antic dance. It is not clear that *Maria* more than *prepares* to play, when she is interrupted by the Servant announcing *Mercury* and *Antonio*. The dance must have been without music, or the dialogue between the Servant, *Mercury*, and *Antonio*, which passes during the dance, could not be heard.

Serv. Heav'n knows!

But for their strangeness—have you never seen
A cat wash her face?

Uberto. Yes.

Serv. Just such a stir they keep:

If you make but haste, you may see 'em yet
Before they enter.

Enter Antonio and Mercury.

Maria. Let 'em be what they will,
We'll give them fair entertain, and gentle welcome.

Ant. It shall be so.

Merc. Then let it be your pleasure.

Ant. Let's stand aside, and you shall see us have
Fine sport anon.

Merc. A fair society;
Do you know these gentlewomen?

Ant. Yes.

Merc. What are they?

Ant. The second is a neighbour's daughter; her
Name's Viola. There is my kinsman's wife;
Portia her name, and a friend too.

Merc. Let her.

What's she that leads the dance?

1 Serv. A gentlewoman.

Merc. I see that.

1 Serv. Indeed?

Merc. What?

1 Serv. A gentlewoman.

Merc. Udsfoot! Good Sir, what's she that leads the
dance?

2 Serv. My mistress.

Merc. What else?

2 Serv. My mistress, Sir.

Merc. Your mistress? A pox on you,
What a fry of fools are here? I see 'tis treason
To understand in this house: If Nature were not
Better to them than they can be to themselves,
They would scant hit their mouths. My mistress?

Is there any one with so much wit in's head,
That can tell me at the first sight,
What gentlewoman that is that leads the dance?

Ant. 'Tis my wife.

Merc. Hum!

Ant. How dost thou like her?

Merc. Well;

A pretty gentlewoman!

Ant. Prithee be quiet.

Merc. I would I could!

Let never any hereafter that's a man,
That has affections in him and free passions,
Receive the least tie from such a fool as this is,
That holds so sweet a wife!

'Tis lamentable to consider truly
What right he robs himself of, and what wrong
He doth the youth of such a gentlewoman,
That knows her beauty is no longer hers
Than men will please to make it so, and use it,
Neither of which lies freely in a husband.
Oh, what have I done, what have I done? Coxcomb!
If I had never seen, or never tasted,
The goodness of this kix, I had been a made man;
But now to make him cuckold is a sin

'Gainst all forgiveness, worse than any murder:
I have a wolf by th' ears, and am bitten both ways!

Ant. How now, friend? what are you thinking of?

Merc. Nothing concerning you: I must be gone.

Ant. Pardon me, I will have no going, Sir.

Merc. Then, good Sir, give me leave to go to bed:
I'm very weary and ill-temper'd.

Ant. You shall presently; the dance is done.

Serv. Mistress, these are the gentlemen.

Maria. My husband? Welcome home, dear Sir!

Merc. She's fair still;

Oh, that I were a knave, or durst be one,
For thy sake, Coxcomb! He that invented honesty
Undid me.

Ant. I thought you had not known me.

You're merry; 'tis well thought. And how is't with These worthy gentlemen?

Uberto and Silvio. We're glad to see You here again.

Ant. Oh, gentlemen, what ha' you lost? But get you into travels; there you may learn—I cannot say what hidden virtues.

Merc. Hidden from you, I'm sure. My blood boils like a furnace! She's a fair one.

Ant. Pray entertain this gentleman with all The courtesy fitting my most especial friend.

Maria. What this poor house may yield, to make you welcome,

Dear Sir, command, without more compliment.

Merc. I thank you!—She is wise, and speaks well too: Oh, what a blessing is gone by me, never To be recover'd! Well, 'twas an old shame The devil laid up for me, and now h'has hit me home. If there be any ways to be dishonest, And save myself yet—No, it must not be! Why should I be a fool too?—Yet those eyes Would tempt another Adam! How they call to me, And tell me—'Sfoot, they shall not tell me any thing! Sir, will you walk in?

Ant. How is't, signor?

Merc. Crazy a little.

Maria. What ail you, Sir? What's in my power, pray Make use of, Sir.

Merc. 'Tis that must do me good! She does not mock me, sure!—An't please you, nothing; My disease is only weariness.

Uberto. Come, gentlemen!

We will not keep you from your beds too long.

Ric. I ha' some business, and 'tis late, and you Far from your lodging.

Silvio. Well? [*Exeunt. Manent Ant. Maria, and Merc.*]

Ant. Come, my dear Mercury!

I'll bring you to your chamber; and then I am

For

For you, Maria: Thou'rt a new wife to me now,
And thou shalt find it ere I sleep.

Merc. And I

An old ass to myself! mine own rod whips me!—

Good Sir, no more of this; 'tis tedious!

You are the best guide in your own house; go, Sir.

[*Exeunt Ant. and Maria.*]

This fool and his fair wife have made me frantic;

From two such physics for the soul deliver me! [*Exit.*]

Enter Ricardo, Uberto, Pedro, and Silvio.

Uberto. Well, you must have this wench then?

Ric. I hope so;

I'm much o'th' bow-hand else.

Pedro. 'Would I were hang'd,

'Tis a good loving little fool, that dares venture

Herself upon a coast she ne'er knew yet!

But these women! when they are once thirteen,

God speed the plough!

Silvio. Faith, they will venture further for their lading
Than a merchant,

And thro' as many storms, but they'll be fraughted;

They're made like carracks, only strength and stowage.

Ric. Come, come, you talk, you talk!

Silvio. We do so. But,

Tell me, Ricardo, wo't thou marry her?

Ric. Marry her? why, what should I do with her?

Pedro. Pox, I thought we should have had all shares
in her,

Like lawful prize.

Ric. No, by my faith, Sir; you shall pardon me;

I launch'd her at my own charge, without partners,

And so I'll keep her,

Uberto. What's the hour?

Ric. Twelve.

Uberto. What shall we do the while? 'Tis yet scarce
eleven.

Silvio. There is no standing here; is not this the place?

Ric. Yes.

Pedro. And to go back
Unto her father's house may breed suspicion:
Let's slip into a tavern for an hour;
'Tis very cold.

Uberto. Content; there's one hard by.
A quart of burnt sack will recover us:
I am as cold as Christmas. This stealing flesh
I'th' frosty weather may be sweet i'th' eating,
But sure the woodmen have no great catch of it.
Shall's go?

Ric. Thou art the strangest lover of
A tavern! What shall we do there now? Lose
The hour and ourselves too?

Uberto. Lose a pudding!
What dost thou talk o'th' hour? will one quart muzzle
us?

Have we not ears to hear, and tongues to ask
The drawers, but we must stand here like bawds
To watch the minutes?

Silvio. Prithee content thyself⁴!
We shall scout here, as tho' we went a-haying,
And have some mangy 'prentice, that can't sleep
For scratching, over-hear us. Come, will you go, Sirs?
When your love-fury is a little frozen,
You'll come to us.

Ric. Will you drink but one quart then?

Pedro. No more, i'faith.

Silvio. Content!

Ric. Why then, have with you!
But let's be very watchful.

Uberto. As watchful as the bellman. Come; I'll lead,
Because I hate good manners; they're too tedious. [*Exe.*

Enter Viola, with a key and a little casket.

Viola. The night is terrible, and I enclos'd
With that my virtue and myself hate most,
Darkness; yet must I fear, that which I wish,

⁴ *Silvio. Prithee content thyself.*] Probably this belongs to *Ricardo*,
and *We shall scout here*, to *Silvio*.

Symphon.

Some

Some company; and every step I take
 Sounds louder in my fearful ears to-night,
 Than ever did the shrill and sacred bell
 That rang me to my prayers. The house will rise
 When I unlock the door! Were it by day,
 I'm bold enough, but then a thousand eyes
 Warn me from going. Might not Heav'n have made
 A time for envious prying folk to sleep,
 Whilst lovers met, and yet the sun have shone?
 Yet I was bold enough to steal this key
 Out of my father's chamber; and dare yet
 Venture upon mine enemy, the night,
 Arm'd only with my love, to meet my friend.
 Alas, how valiant, and how 'fraid at once
 Love makes a virgin! I will throw this key
 Back thro' a window: I have wealth enough
 In jewels with me, if I hold his love
 I steal 'em for. Farewell, my place of birth!
 I never make account to look on thee again;
 And if there be, as I have heard men say,
 These household gods, I do beseech them look
 To this my charge; bless it from thieves and fire,
 And keep, 'till happily my love I win,
 Me from thy door, and hold my father in! [*Exit.*
Enter Ricardo, Pedro, Uberto, Silvio, and Drawer with
a candle.

Ric. No more, for God's sake!
 How's the night, boy?

Drawer. Faith, Sir, 'tis very late.

Uberto. Faith, Sir, you lie! is this your Jack i'th'
 clock-house?

^s *Is this your Jack i'th' clock-house?*

Will you strike, Sir?] In Shakespeare's King Richard III. the King says to Buckingham,

'——— like a *Jack*, thou keep'st the *stroke*

'Betwixt thy begging and my meditation;'

on which passage are the following notes:

An image, like those at St. Dunstan's church in Fleet-street, and at the market-houses at several towns in this kingdom, was usually called a *Jack of the clock-house*. See Cowley's Discourse on the Government

Will you strike, Sir? Give's some more sack, you varlet.

Ric. Nay, if you love me, good Uberto, go!
I am monstrous hot with wine.

Uberto. Quench it again with love!
Gentlemen, I will drink one health more, and then,
If my legs say me not shamefully nay,
I will go with you. Give me a singular quart!

Drawer. Of what wine, Sir?

Uberto. Of sack, you that speak confusion at the bar!
Of sack, I say; and every one his quart.
What a devil, let's be merry!

Drawer. You shall, Sir. [Exit.

Pedro. We will, Sir; and a dried tongue.

Silvia. And an olive, boy, and a whole bunch of
fidlers!

My head swims plaguily; 'uds precious, I shall be
claw'd.

Enter Drawer with four quarts of wine.

Ric. Pray go! I can drink no more; think on your
promise;

'Tis midnight, gentlemen.

Uberto. Oh, that it were dumb midnight now!
Not a word more! every man on's knees,
And betake himself to his faint: Here's to your wench,
signor!

All this, and then away.

Ric. I cannot drink it.

Pedro. 'Tis a toy, a toy; away wi't!

Uberto. Now dare I
Speak any thing to any body living!
Come, where's the fault? Off with it.

Ric. I have broke
My wind. Call you this sack? I wonder who made it;

of Oliver Cromwell. Richard resembles Buckingham to one of those
automatons, and bids him not suspend the stroke on the clock-bell, but
strike, that the hour may be past, and himself be at liberty to pursue
his meditations. *Hawkins.*

So in *The Fleire*, a comedy, 1610.—' Their tongues are, like a
Jack o' the clock, still in labour.' *Steevens*

He

He was a fure workman, for 'tis plaguy strong work.
Is it gone round?

Uberto. 'Tis at the last. Out of my way, good boy!
Is the moon up yet?

Drawer. Yes, Sir.

Uberto. Where is she, boy?

Drawer. There, Sir.

Uberto. We shall have rain and thunder, boy.

Drawer. When, Sir?

Uberto. I cannot tell; but fure we shall, boy.

Drawer. The gentleman is wine-wise.

Uberto. Drawer!

Drawer. Here, Sir.

Uberto. Can you procure?

Drawer. What, Sir?

Uberto. A whore, or two, or three,
As need shall serve, boy?

Silvio. Ay, a good whore were worth money, boy.

Drawer. I protest, Sir, we are altogether unprovided.

Ric. The more's the pity, boy; can you not 'vise us
Where, my child?

Drawer. Neither, in troth, Sir⁶.

Pedro. Why, where were you brought up, boy?
No inkling of a whore? no aim, my boy?

Uberto. It cannot sink in my head now that thou
shouldst marry;

Why shouldst thou marry, tell me?

Ric. I marry? I'll be hang'd first.
Some more wine, boy!

Silvio. Is she not a whore
Translated? An she be, let's repair to her!

Ric. I cannot tell; she may be an offender:
But, signor Silvio, I shall scratch your head;
Indeed I shall.

Silvio. Judge me, I do but jest
With thee: What an she were inverted, with
Her heels upward like a traitor's coat, what care I?

⁶ *Drawer.* Neither in troth, Sir.] This little speech is only in the first folio.

Uberto. Ay, hang her! shall we fall out for her?

Ric. I am a little angry. But these wenches!

Did you not talk of wenches?

Silvio. Boy, lend me your candle!

Drawer. Why, Sir?

Silvio. To set fire to your rotten ceiling:

You'll keep no whores, rogue, no good members!

Drawer. Whores, Sir?

Silvio. Ay, whores, Sir; do you think we come to lie
With your hogsheds?

Ric. I must beat the watch;

I have long'd for it any time this three weeks.

Silvio. We'll beat the town too, an thou wilt;
we're proof, boy!

Shall we kill any body?

Ric. No; but we'll hurt 'em dangerously.

Uberto. Silvio, now must I kill one; I cannot avoid it.

Boy, easily afore there with your candle!

Where's your mistress?

Drawer. A-bed, Sir.

Silvio. With whom?

Drawer. With my master.

Uberto. You lie, boy! she's better brought up than to
Lie with her husband; has he not cast his head yet?
Next year he'll be a velvet-headed cuckold.

Drawer. You are a merry gentleman. There, Sir;
take hold! [Exeunt.]

Enter Viola.

Viola. This is the place! I have out-told the clock
For haste; he is not here. Ricardo? No!
Now every power that loves and is belov'd,
Keep me from shame to-night! for you all know
Each thought of mine is innocent and pure,
As flesh and blood can hold. I cannot back;
I threw the key within, and, ere I raise
My father up to see his daughter's shame,
I'll set me down, and tell the Northern wind,
That it is gentler than the curling West,

If

If it will blow me dead ! But he will come.
 I' faith, 'tis cold. If he deceive me thus,
 A woman will not easily trust a man.
 Hark ! what's that ?

Silvio [*within*]. Thou'rt over long at thy pot, Tom,
 Tom :

Thou'rt over long at the pot, Tom. [*Singing*.

Viola. Bless me ! Who's that ?

Pedro [*within*]. Whoo !

Uberto [*within*]. There, boys !

Viola. Darkness, be thou my cover ! I must fly ;
 To thee I haste for help.—They have a light :

Enter Ricardo, Pedro, Uberto, Silvio, and Drawer
with a torch.

Wind, if thou lov'st a virgin, blow it out !
 And I will never shut a window more,
 To keep thee from me.

Ric. Boy !

Drawer. Sir ?

Ric. Why, boy !

Drawer. What say you, Sir ?

Ric. Why, boy, art thou drunk, boy ?

Drawer. What would you, Sir ?

Ric. Why, very good ; where are we ?

Uberto. Ay, that's the point.

Drawer. Why, Sir, you will be at your lodging
 presently.

Ric. I'll go to no lodging, boy.

Drawer. Whither will you go then, Sir ?

Ric. I'll go no further.

Drawer. For God's sake, Sir, do not stay here all
 night.

Ric. No more I will not :

Boy, lay me down, and roll me to a whore.

Uberto. And me.

Pedro. There spoke an——

Silvio [*singing*]. Then set your foot to my foot,
 and up tails all !

Viola,

172 THE COXCOMB.

Viola. That is Ricardo: What a noise they make!
It is ill done of 'em. Here, Sirs! Ricardo!

Ric. What's that, boy?

Drawer. 'Tis a wench, Sir: Pray, gentlemen, come away!

Viola. Oh, my dear love! how dost thou?

Ric. Faith, sweetheart,

Ev'n as thou feest.

Pedro. Where's thy wench?

Uberto. Where's this bed-worm?

Viola. Speak softly, for the love of Heaven!

Drawer. Mistress,

Get you gone, and don't entice the gentlemen,
Now you see they're drunk; or I'll call the watch,
And lay you fast enough.

Viola. Alas, what are you?

Or, what do you mean? Sweet love, where's the place?

Ric. Marry, sweet love, e'en here: Lie down; I'll feese thee.

Viola. Good God! What mean you?

Pedro. I will have the wench.

Uberto. If you can get her.

Silvio. No, I'll lie with

The wench to-night, and she shall be yours tomorrow.

Pedro. Let go the wench!

Silvio. Let you go the wench!

Viola. Oh, gentlemen, as you had mothers——

Uberto. They had no mothers; they're the sons of bitches.

Ric. Let that be maintain'd!

Silvio. Marry then——

Viola. Oh, blefs me, Heav'n!

Uberto. How many is there on's?

Ric. About five.

Uberto. Why then, let's fight three to three.

Silvio. Content.

[*Draw and fall down.*]

Drawer. The watch! the watch! the watch!

Where are you? [Exit.

Ric. Where are these cowards?

[Exit.

Pedro.

Pedro. There's the whore.

Viola. I never saw a drunken man before ;
But these I think are so.

Silvio. Oh !

Pedro. I miss'd you narrowly there.

Viola. My state is such, I know not how to think
A prayer fit for me ; only I could move,
That never maiden more might be in love ! [*Exit.*

Enter Drawer, Constable and Watch.

Watch. Where are they, boy ?

Drawer. Make no such haste, Sir ; they are
No runners.

Uberto. I am hurt, but that's all one ;
I shall light upon some of ye. *Pedro,*
Thou art a tall gentleman ; let me kiss thee !

Watch. My friend——

Uberto. Your friend ? you lie !

Ric. Stand further off !
The watch ? you're full of fleas.

Const. Gentlemen,
Either be quiet, or we must make you quiet.

Ric. Nay, good Mr. Constable, be not so rigorous !

Uberto. Mr. Constable, lend me thy hand of
justice !

Const. That I will, Sir.

Uberto. Fy, Mr. Constable !
What galls you have ? Is Justice
So blind you cannot see to wash your hands ?
I cry you mercy, Sir ; your gloves are on.

Drawer. Now you are up, Sir, will you go to bed ?

Pedro. I'll truckle here, boy ; give me another
pillow.

Drawer. Will you stand up, and let me lay it on
then ?

Pedro. Yes.

Drawer. There ; hold him, two of ye. Now they
are up,
Be going, Mr. Constable.

Ric.

Ric. And this way, and that way, Tom.

Uberto. And here away, and there away, Tom.

Silvio. This is the right way, the other's the wrong.

Pedro. Th' other's the wrong.

Omnes. Thou'rt over long at the pot, Tom, Tom.

Ric. Lead valiantly, sweet Constable! whoop! ha, boys!

Const. This wine hunts in their heads.

Ric. Give me the bill, for I will be the sergeant.

Const. Look to him, Sirs!

Ric. Keep your ranks, you rascals, keep your ranks! [*Exeunt.*]

A C T II.

Enter Mercury.

Merc. I CANNOT sleep for thinking of this ass's wife!

I'll be gone presently; there's no staying here,
With this devil about me.—Ho! This is the house
of sleep.

Ho! again there! 'Sfoot, the darkness, and this
love

Together, will make me lunatick. Ho!

Enter a Servingman above unready.

Serv. Who calls there?

Merc. Pray take the pains to rise and light a candle.

Serv. Presently.

Merc. Was ever man but I in such a stocks?
Well, this shall be a warning to me, and
A fair one too, how I betray myself
To such a dunce, by way of benefit.

Enter Servingman.

Serv. Did you call?

Merc.

Merc. Yes: Pray do me the kindness, Sir, to let me out,

And not enquire why, for I must needs be gone.

Serv. Not to-night, I hope, Sir,

Merc. Good Sir, to-night;

I would not have troubled you else;

Pray let it be so!

Serv. Alas, Sir, my master will be offended.

Merc. That I have business? no, I warrant you.

Serv. Good Sir, take your rest.

Merc. Pray, my good friend,

Let me appoint my own rest.

Serv. Yes, Sir.

Merc. Then shew me the way out; I'll consider you.

Serv. Good Lord, Sir——

Merc. If I had not

An excellent-temper'd patience, now should I break

This fellow's head, and make him understand

'Twere necessary; the only plague

Of this house is th' unhandsome love of servants,

That never do their duty i' th' right place,

But when they muster before dinner⁷,

And sweep the table with a wooden dagger,

And then they're troublesome too, to all mens'

shoulders.—

The woodcock's flush'd again; now I shall have

A new stir.

Enter Antonio.

Ant. Why, how now, friend? what do you up so late?

Are you well? do you want any thing? Pray speak.

Merc. Only the cause I rise for.

Ant. What knaves are these!

⁷ ——— muster before dinner,

[And sweep the table with a wooden dagger.] The difficulties in this passage are what in all appearance cannot be got over, without a greater knowledge of the customs and manners of our Authors times than I am master of. *Symson.*

This seems to be a temporary allusion, of which, it is probable, no explanation can now be obtained.

What do you want? Why, firrah!

Merc. Nothing i'th' world,
But th' keys to let me out of doors; I must be gone;
Be not against it, for you cannot stay me.

Ant. Be gone at this time? that were a merry jest.

Merc. If there be any mirth in't, make you use on't,
But I must go.

Ant. Why, for love's sake?

Merc. 'Twill benefit
Your understanding nothing to know the cause.
Pray go to bed; I'll trouble your man only.

Ant. Nay, Sir, you have rais'd more, that has reason
To curse you, an you knew all? my wife's up,
And coming down too.

Merc. Alas, it will be
A trouble: Pray go up to her, and let me
Disturb no more; it is unmannerly.

Enter Maria, as out of bed.

Ant. She's here already.
Sweetheart, how say you by this gentleman?
He would away at midnight.

Maria. That I am
Sure he will not.

Merc. Indeed I must.

Maria. Good Sir,
Let not your homely entertainment press you
To leave your bed at midnight! If you want
What my house, or our town, may afford you,
Make it your own fault if you call not for it.
Pray go to bed again! let me compel you:
I'm sure you've no pow'r to deny a woman.
The air is piercing;
And, to a body beaten with long travel,
'Twill prove an ill physician.

Merc. If she
Speak longer I shall be a knave, as rank
As e'er sweat for it.—Sir, if you will send
Your wife up presently, I'll either stay

With

With you, (d'ye mark me?) or deliver you
So just a cause that you yourself shall thrust
Me out of doors, both suddenly and willingly.

Ant. I'd fain hear that, 'faith!—Pray thee go up,
sweetheart!

I've half persuaded him; besides, he hath
Some private business with me.

Maria. Good night, Sir!

And what content you would have, I wish with you. [*Ex.*

Merc. Could any man that had a back ask more?
Oh, me! oh, me!

Ant. Now deal directly with me:
Why should you go?

Merc. If you be wise, do not enquire the cause;
'Twill trouble you.

Ant. Why? prithee why?

Merc. I'faith,
I would not have you know it; let me go!
'Twill be far better for you.

Ant. Who is that,
That knocks there? is't not at the street-door?

Serv. Yes, Sir.

Ant. Who's there? cannot you speak?

Viola [*within*]. A poor
Distressed maid; for God's sake, let me in!

Merc. Let her in, and me out together; 'tis but
one labour:

'Tis pity she should stand i'th' street. It seems
She knows you.

Ant. There she shall stand for me: You're ignorant;
This is a common custom of the rogues
That lie about the loose parts of the city.

Merc. As how?

Ant. To knock at doors in dead time of night,
And use some feigned voice to raise compassion;
And when the doors are open, in they rush,
And cut the throats of all, and take the booty:
We cannot be too careful.

Viola [*within*]. As ever you had pity,

Let me in! I am undone else.

Ant. Who are you?

Viola. My name is Viola, a gentlewoman
That ill chance hath distress'd; you know my father.

Merc. Alas of God! we'll let her in; 'tis one
O'th' gentlewomen were here in the evening;
I know her by her name: Poor soul! she's cold,
I warrant her; let her have my warm bed,
And I will take her fortune: Come, pray come!

Ant. It is not Viola, that's certain;
She went home to her father's, I am sure.

Viola. Will not you be so good to let me in?

Ant. I'll be so good to have you whipt away,
If you stay a little longer. She is gone,
I warrant her. Now let me know your cause,
For I will hear't, and not repent the knowing.

Merc. Since you are so importunate, I'll tell you:
I love your wife extremely.

Ant. Very well.

Merc. And so well that I dare not stay.

Ant. Why?

Merc. For wronging you: I know I'm flesh and blood,
And you have done me friendships infinite and often,
That must require me honest, and a true man;
And I will be so, or I'll break my heart.

Ant. Why, you may stay for all this, methinks.

Merc. No; tho' I would be good, I am no saint,
Nor is it safe to try me: I deal plainly.

Ant. Come, I dare try you; do the best you can.

Merc. You shall not:

When I am right again, I'll come and see you;
'Till when, I'll use all countries, and all means,
But I will lose this folly; 'tis a devil!

Ant. Is there no way to stay you?

Merc. No; unless

You'll have me such a villain to you, as all men
Shall spit at me.

Ant. Does she know you love her?

Merc. No; I hope not: That were recompense

Fit for a rogue to render her.

Ant. If ever any
Had a faithful friend, I am that man, and I
May glory in it! This is he, that *ipse*, he,
That passes all Christendom for goodness.
He shall not overgo me in his friendship;
'Twere recreant and base, and I'll be hang'd first;
I am resolved: Go thy ways; a wife
Shall never part us: I've consider'd, and
I find her nothing to such a friend as thou art.
I'll speak a bold word; take your time and wooe her,
(You've overcome me clearly)
And do what's sitting with her—you conceive me.
I'm glad at heart you love her, by this light!
Ne'er stare upon me, for I will not fly from't!
If you had spoken sooner, sure you had been serv'd;
Sir, you're not ev'ry man. Now to your task!
I give you free leave; and the sin is mine,
If there be any in it.

Merc. He'll be hang'd
Before he makes this good: He cannot be
So innocent a Coxcomb; he can tell ten sure!—
If I had never known you, as I have done,
I might be one, as others, perhaps sooner;
But now it is impossible, there's too
Much good between us.

Ant. Well, thou'rt e'en the best man—
I can say no more, I am so overjoy'd!
You must stay this night, and in the morning go
As early as you please; I have a toy for you.

Merc. I thought this pill would make you sick.

Ant. But where you mean to be I must have notice,
And it must be hard by too: Do you mark me?

Merc. Why, what's the matter?

Ant. There is a thing in hand.

Merc. Why, what thing?

Ant. A sound one, if it take right, and you be not
Peevish. We two will be (you'd little think it)
As famous for our friendship—

Merc. How?

Ant. If Heaven please,
As ever Damon was, and Pytheas;
Or Pylades, and Orestes; or any two
That ever were: Do you conceive me yet?

Merc. No, by my troth, Sir!—He'll not help me
up sure?

Ant. You shall anon; and, for our names, I think
They shall live after us, and be remember'd
While there's a story, or I'll lose my aim.

Merc. What a vengeance ails he? How do you?

Ant. Yes, faith,
We two will be such friends as the world shall ring of.

Merc. And why is all this?

Ant. You shall enjoy my wife.

Merc. Away, away!

Ant. The wonder must begin.
So I have cast it, ('twill be scurvy else)
You shall not stir a foot in't: Pray be quiet
'Till I have made it perfect.

Merc. What shall a man do with this wretched fellow?
There is no mercy to be us'd towards him;
He is not capable of any pity;
He will, in spite of course, be a cuckold^a;
And who can help it?—Must it begin so, needs, Sir?
Think again.

Ant. Yes, marry must it;
And I myself will wooe this woman for you:
Do you perceive it now? ha?

Merc. Yes; now I have a little fight i'th' matter.—
Oh, that thy head should be so monstrous,
That all thy servants' hats may hang upon't!—
But, do you mean to do this?

Ant. Yes, certain; I will wooe her, and for you.
Strive not against it; 'tis the overthrow
Of the best plot that ever was then.

Merc. Nay,
I will assure you, Sir, I'll do no harm;—

^a In *sight* of course.] Seward would substitute *courtesy* for *course*.

You have too much about you of your own.

Ant. Have you thought of a place yet?

Merc. A place?

Ant. Ay, a place where you will bide:

Prithee no more of this modesty; 'tis foolish!

An we were not determined to be

Absolute friends indeed, 'twere tolerable.

Merc. I have thought, and you shall hear from me.

Ant. Why, this will gain me everlasting glory!

I have the better of him, that's my comfort!

Good night!

[*Exit.*]

Merc. Good night!—

Well, go thy ways! thou art the tidiest wittol

This day I think above ground;

And yet thy end for all this must be motly. [*Exit.*]

Enter Tinker and Dorothy.

Tinker. 'Tis bitter cold. A plague upon these rogues,

How wary they are grown! not a door open now,

But double-barred; not a window,

But up with a case of wood, like a spice-box;

And their locks unpickable! the very smiths

That were half venturers, drink penitent single ale:

This is the iron age the ballad sings of.

Well, I shall meet with some of your loose linen yet;

Good fellows must not starve; here's he shall shew

You God-a-mighty's dog-bolts, if this hold.

Dor. Faith, thou art but too merciful, that's thy fault;

Thou art as sweet a thief, that sin excepted,

As ever suffer'd; that is a proud word,

And I'll maintain it.

Tinker. Come, prithee let's shog off?

² *Shog off.*] This cant word is used by Nym, in Shakespeare's Henry V. act ii. scene i.

' Will you *shog off*? I would have you solus.'

Again, in Marston's What You Will, act v. scene i.

' ——— why then, capricious mirth.

' Skip light moriscoes in our frolick blood,

' Flagg'd veins, sweet, plump with fresh-infused joys,

' Laughter, pucker our cheeks, make shoulders *shog*

And bowze an hour or two¹⁰; there's ale will make
A cat speak at the Harrow: We shall get nothing now,
Without we batter; it is grown too near
Morning; the rogues sleep sober, and are watchful.

Dor. We want a boy extremely for this function,
Kept under for a year, with milk and knot-grass.
In my time I have seen a boy do wonders:

Robin the red tinker had a boy,
(God rest his soul, he suffer'd this time four years
For two spoons, and a pewter candlestick)
That sweet man had a boy, as I am cursten'd whore,
Would have run thro' a cat-hole; he would
Have bouted such a piece of linen in an evening—

Tinker. Well, we will have a boy, Prithee let's go!
I am vengeance cold, I tell thee.

Dor. I'll be hang'd
Before I stir without some purchase! By these
Ten bones, I'll turn she-ape, and untile a house,
But I will have it! It may be I have
A humour to be hang'd, I cannot tell,

Enter Viola.

Tinker. Peace, you flea'd whore! thou hast a mouth
like a blood-hound:
Here comes a night-shade.

Dor. A gentlewoman-whore;
By this darkness, I'll case her to the skin,

Tinker. Peace, I say!

Viola. What fear have I endur'd this dismal night!
And what disgrace, if I were seen and known!
In which this darkness only is my friend,
That only has undone me. A thousand curses
Light on my easy, foolish, childish love,

* With chucking lightness, &c.*

Again, in Jack Drum's Entertainment,

* Lift to the music that corrupts the gods,

* Subverts even destiny, and thus it *shogs*.

¹⁰ *Browze an hour or two.*] The text is from Mr. Theobald's
margin. I conjectured we should read *rouse*, i. e. *carouse*, but it is
a matter of no great moment.

R.

Symphon.

That

That durst so lightly lay a confidence
Upon a man, so many being false !
My weariness, and weeping, makes me sleepy ;
I must lie down.

Tinker. What's this ? a prayer, or
A homily, or a ballad of good counsel ?
She has a gown, I'm sure.

Dor. Knock out her brains !
And then she'll never bite.

Tinker. Yes, I will knock her,
But not yet.—You ! woman !

Viola. For God's sake, what are you ?

Tinker. One of the grooms of your wardrobe. Come,
Uncase, uncase ! By'r lady, a good kersey !

Viola. Pray do not hurt me, Sir.

Dor. Let's have no pity ¹¹ ;
For if you do, here's that shall cut your whistle.

Viola. Alas, what would you have ? I am as miserable
As you can make me any way.

Dor. That shall be tried.

Viola. Here, take my gown, if that will do you pleasure.

Tinker. Yes, marry will't. Look in the pockets, Doll ;
There may be birds.

Dor. They're flown, a pox go with them !
I'll have this hat, and this ruff too ; I like it :
Now will I flourish like a lady brave,
I'faith, boy.

Viola. You are so gentle people, to my seeming,
That by my truth I could live with you !

Tinker. Could you so ?

A pretty young round wench, well-blooded ; I
Am for her ¹².

Dor. But by this, I am not ; cool
Your codpiece, rogue ! or I will clap a spell on't,

¹¹ *Let's have no pity*] i. e. No crying out for pity. *Sympson.*

¹² *Am for her, thieves.*] *Thieves* has stolen into the text here very unaccountably. If the speech is, or is not curtail'd, as I can't promise, yet there is no reason for *thieves* standing here, as there is nothing to which it can probably refer. There are but two ways I know of that we can rid the text of it ; the first is by expunging it

Shall take your edge off with a very vengeance.

Tinker. Peace, horse-flesh, peace! I'll cast off my Amazon;

Sh' has walk'd too long, and is indeed notorious,
She'll fight and scold, and drink like one o'th' worthies.

Dor. Uds precious,
You young contagious whore, must you be ticeing?
And, is your flesh so rank, Sir, that two may live
upon't?

I'm glad to hear your curtal's ¹³ grown so lusty;
He was dry-founder'd t'other day; wehee,
My pamper'd jade of Asia ¹⁴!

Viola. Good woman, do not hurt me! I am sorry
That I have given any cause of anger.

Dor. Either bind her quickly, and come away, or by
This steel I'll tell, altho' I trust for company!
Now could I eat her broil'd, or any way,
Without vinegar: I must have her nose!

Viola. By any thing you love best, good Sir! good
woman!

Tinker. Why her nose, Dorothy?

Dor. If I have it not,
And presently, and warm, I lose that I go withal.

Tinker. Would the devil had that thou goest withal,
And thee together! for sure he got thy whelps,
If thou hast any; he's thy dear dad ¹⁵. Whore,

as I have done, and the second by supposing that it is a corruption of
this, and situate in a wrong place, and that the passage once run thus,

A pretty young round wench well blooded, this,

I'm for her—

Sympson.

¹³ *Cortall.*] In Ben Jonson's Masque called Chloridia, a Possilion
says, 'Look to my curtal,' (according to which we have reformed
the orthography); and Mr. Whalley says,

'A curtal is a small horse; properly one who hath his tail dock'd
' or curtailed.'

¹⁴ *My pamper'd jade of Asia.*] This is plainly meant as a burlesque
on this line in Marlow's *Tamerlane*:

'Holla, you pamper'd jades of Asia;'

which is also ridiculed in the Second Part of Henry IV. act ii.
scene iv.

R.

¹⁵ She's thy dear dad, —] Common sense, as Mr. Seward saw
too, calls out for a change of *She's* into *He's*.

Sympson.

Put

Put up your cut-purse! an I take my switch up,
'Twill be a black time with you else; sheath your
bung, whore!

Dor. Will you bind her?

We shall stand here prating, and be hang'd both.

Tinker. Come, I must bind you: Not a word; no
crying!

Viola. Do what you will, indeed I will not cry.

Tinker. Hurt her not: If thou dost, by ale and beer,
I'll clout thy old bald brain-pan with a piece
Of brass, you bitch incarnate. [*Exe. Tinker and Dor.*]

Viola. Oh, Heav'n, to what am I reserv'd! that
knew not,

Thro' all my childish hours and actions,
More sin than poor imagination,
And too-much loving of a faithless man,
For which I'm paid; and so, that not the day
That now is rising to protect the harmless,
And give the innocent a sanctuary
From thieves and spoilers, can deliver me
From shame, at least suspicion!

Enter Valerio.

Val. Sirrah, lead down

The horses easily! I'll walk a-foot
'Till I be down the hill. 'Tis very early;
I shall reach home betimes. How now? who's there?

Viola. Night, that was ever friend to lovers, yet
Has rais'd some weary soul, that hates his bed,
To come and see me blush, and then laugh at me.

Val. H' had a rude heart that did this.

Viola. Gentle Sir,

If you have that which honest men call pity,
And be as far from evil as you shew,
Help a poor maid, that this night by bad fortune
Has been thus us'd by robbers.

Val. A pox upon his heart that would not help thee!
This thief was half a lawyer, by his bands.
How long have you been tied here?

Viola.

Viola. Alas,

This hour, and with cold and fear am almost perish'd.

Val. Where were the watch the while? Good sober gentlemen!

They were, like careful members of the city,

Drawing in diligent ale, and singing catches,

While Mr Constable contriv'd the toasts.

These fellows should be more severely punish'd

Than wandering gipsies, that ev'ry statute whips;

For if they'd every one two eyes apiece more,

Three pots would put them out.

Viola. I cannot tell;

I found no Christian to give me succour.

Val. When they take a thief,

I'll take Offend again¹⁶: The whoresons

Drink opium in their ale, and then they sleep

Like tops; as for their bills, they only serve

To reach down bacon to make rashers on.

Now let me know to whom I've done this courtesy,

That I may thank my early rising for it.

Viola. Sir, all I am, you see.

Val. You have a name, I'm sure, and a kindred,

A father, friend, or something that must own you.—

She's a handsome young wench: What rogues were these to rob her!

Viola. Sir, you see all I dare reveal; and, as

You are a gentleman, press me no further!

For there begins a grief, whose bitterness

Will break a stronger heart than I have in me;

And 'twill but make you heavy with the hearing;

For your own goodness sake, desire it not!

Val. If you would not have me enquire that,
How do you live then?

Viola. How I have liv'd, is

Still one question, which must not be resolv'd:

How I desire to live, is in your liking;

So worthy an opinion I have of you.

Val. Is in my liking? How, I pray thee? tell me!

¹⁶ *Offend.*] See note 13 on the Woman's Prize.

P'faith, I'll do you any good lies in my power.—
 She has an eye would raise a bed-ridden man:
 Come, leave your fear, and tell me; that's a good
 wench!

Viola. Sir, I would serve——

Val. Who wouldst thou serve? Don't weep,
 And tell me.

Viola. Faith, Sir, even some good woman;
 And such a wife, if you be married,
 I do imagine yours.

Val. Alas! thou'rt young and tender;
 Let me see thy hand! This was ne'er made to wash,
 Or wind up water, beat cloaths, or rub a floor.
 By this light, for one use, that shall be nameless,
 'Tis the best wanton hand that e'er I look'd on!

Viola. Dare you accept me, Sir? my heart is honest:
 Among your virtuous charitable deeds,
 This will not be the least.

Val. Thou canst in a chamber?

Viola. In a chamber, Sir?

Val. I mean, wait there upon a gentlewoman.—
 How quick she is! I like that mainly too;
 I'll have her, tho' I keep her with main strength,
 Like a besieged town; for I know I shall
 Have th' enemy afore me within a week.

Viola. Sir, I can sew too, and make pretty laces,
 Dress a head handsome, teach young gentlewomen;
 For in all these I have a little knowledge.

Val. 'Tis well;—no doubt I shall increase that
 knowledge.

I like her better still; how she provokes me!—
 Pretty young maid, you shall serve a good gentle-
 woman,

Tho' I say it, that will not be unwilling
 You should please me, nor I forgetful if you do.

Viola. I am the happier,

Val. My man shall make some shift to carry you
 Behind him: Can you ride well?

Viola. But I'll hold fast,

For catching of a fall:

Val. That's the next way
To pull another on you.—I'll work her as I go:
I know she's wax! Now, now, at this time could I
Beget a worthy on this wench.

Viola. Sir, for
This gentleness, may Heav'n requite you tenfold!

Val. 'Tis a good wench! however others use thee,
Be sure I'll be a loving master to thee. Come! [*Exe.*]

Enter Antonio like an Irish footman, with a letter.

Ant. I hope I'm wild enough for being known!
I've writ a letter here, and in it have
Abus'd myself most bitterly, yet, all
My fear is, not enough,
For that must do it, that must lay it on:
I'll win her out o'th' flint; 'twill be more famous.
Now for my language!

Enter Servant.

Serv. Now, Sir; who'd you speak with?

Ant. Where be thy mastrs, man? I'd spake with her:
I have a letter.

Serv. Cannot I deliver it?

Ant. No, by my trot and fait, canst thou not, man.

Serv. Well, Sir, I'll call her to you; pray shake
your ears

Without a little.

[*Exit,*

Ant. Cran a cree, do it quickly!
This rebel tongue¹⁶ sticks in my teeth
Worse than a tough hen: Sure it was
Ne'er known at Babel; for they sold no apples,
And this was made for certain at the first
Planting of orchards, it is so crabbed.

Enter Maria and Servant.

Maria. What's he would speak with me?

Serv. A Kilkenny ring;

¹⁶ *This rebel tongue.*] See note 26 on this Play.

There he stands, madam.

Maria. What would you have with me, friend?

Ant. He has a letter for other women; wilt thou read it?

Maria. From whence?

Ant. De croffe Creeft, from my master!

Maria. Who is your master?

Ant. I pray do you look.

Maria. Do you know this fellow?

Serv. No,

Madam, not I, more than an Irish footman.

Stand further, friend; I do not like your rope-runners.

What stallion rogues are these, to wear such trowsers¹⁷!

The very cotton may commit adultery.

Maria. I can't find whose hand this should be; I'll read:

'To the beauteous wife of don Antonio.'

Sure this is some blind scribe! Well! now what follows?

Ant. Pray God it take! I have given her that Will stir her conscience; how it works with her!

Hope, if it be thy will, let the flesh have it!

Maria. This is the most abhorr'd, intolerable knavery,

That e'er slave entertain'd! Sure there is more

Than thine own head in

This villainy; it goes like practis'd mischief.

Disabled in his body? Oh, good God!

As I live, he lies fearfully, and basely.

Ha! I should know that jewel; 'tis my husband!—

Come hither, firrah; are you an Irishman?

Ant. Sweet woman, a cree, I am an Irishman.

Mar. Now I know't perfectly: Is this your trick, Sir? I'll trick you for it!—How long have you serv'd This gentleman?

Ant. Please thee, a little day,

O my Mac Dermond put me to my mastree.—

'Tis done, I know.

¹⁷ To wear such dowlsets.] The variation by Symphon.

Maria. By my faith, he speaks as well
As if he had been lousy for the language
A year or two. Well, Sir, you had better
Have kept in your own shape, as I will use you.
What have I done that should deserve this trial?
I never made him cuckold, to my knowledge.
Sirrah, come hither!

Ant. Now will she fend some jewel,
Or some letter; I know her mind as well!
I shall be famous.

Maria. Take this Irish bawd here——

Ant. How!

Maria. And kick him 'till his breeches
And breech be of one colour, a bright-blue both!

Ant. I may be well swing'd thus, for I dare not
Reveal myself: I hope she does not mean it.

[*Servant kicks him.*]

Oh, hone! oh, hone! oh, St. Patrick! oh, a cree!
Oh, sweet woman!

Maria. Now turn him,
And kick him o't'other side! that's well.

Ant. Oh, good waiting-man! I beseech thee,
Good waiting-man!—A pox fire your legs!

Maria. You rogue,
You enemy to all, but little breeches,
How dar'st thou come to me with such a letter?

Ant. Prithee
Pity th' poor Irishman!—All this makes for me:
If I win her yet, I'm still more glorious.

Maria. Now could I weep at what I've done;
but I'll
Harden my heart again.—Go, shut him up—
Until my husband comes home. Yet thus much
Ere you go, sirrah Thatch'd-Head! wouldst not thou
Be whipt, and think it justice?—
Well *Aquavite* barrel, I'll bounce you.

Ant. I pray, do, I beseech you, be not angry!

Maria. Oh, you hobby-headed rascal, I'll have you
flead,

And

And troffers¹⁸ made of thy skin to tumble in.
Go, away with him! let him see no fun,
'Till my husband come home.—Sir, I
Shall meet with you for your knavery,
I fear it not.

Ant. Wilt thou not let me go?—
I do not like this.

Maria. Away with him!

Serv. Come, I'll lead you in by your jack-a-lenthair.
Go quietly, or I'll make your crupper crack!

Maria. And, do you hear me, sirrah? when you've
done,

Make my coach ready.

Serv. Yes, forsooth. [Exit with Antonio.]

Maria. Lock him up safe enough.—
I'll to this gentleman, and know the reason
Of all this business, for I do suspect it;
If he have laid this plot, I'll ring him such a peal
Shall make his ears deaf for a month at least. [Exit.]

Enter Ricardo.

Ric. Am I not mad? Can this weak-temper'd head,
That will be mad with drink, endure the wrong
That I have done a virgin, and my love?
Be mad, for so thou ought'st, or I will beat
The walls and trees down with thee, and will let
Either thy memory out, or madness in!
But sure I never lov'd fair Viola,
I never lov'd my father, nor my mother,
Or any thing but drink! Had I had love,
Nay, had I known so much charity¹⁹

¹⁸ *Troffers.*] *Troffers* appear to have been *loose breeches*: The word is still preserved, but now written *trowsers*. *Steevens.*

¹⁹ *Had I known so much charity.*] The omission of a particle here hurts the sense, as well as the measure: *To know so much charity*, is to possess so much charity; but to *know so much of charity*, is to hear or read so much of it, as that it is a duty to save an infant from the fire; which is a stronger exclusion of himself to all pretence of charity. *Seward.*

We think the old reading right.

As would have sav'd an infant from the fire,
 I had been naked, raving in the street,
 With half a face, gashing myself with knives,
 Two hours ere this time.

Enter Pedro, Silvio, and Uberto.

Pedro. Good-morrow, Sir!

Ric. Good-morrow, gentlemen!

Shall we go drink again? I have my wits.

Pedro. So have I, but they're unsettled ones:
 'Would I'd some porridge!

Ric. The tavern-boy was here this morning with me,
 And told me, that there was a gentlewoman,
 Which he took for a whore, that hung on me,
 For whom we quarrel'd, and I know not what.

Pedro. I faith, nor I.

Uberto. I have a glimmering
 Of some such thing.

Ric. Was it you, Silvio,
 That made me drink so much? 'twas you or Pedro.

Pedro. I know not who.

Silvio. We were all apt enough.

Ric. But I will lay the fault on none but me,
 That I would be so entreated!—Come, Silvio,
 Shall we go drink again? Come, gentlemen,
 Why do you stay? Let's never leave off now,
 Whilst we have wine, and throats! I'll practise it,
 'Till I have made it my best quality;
 For what is best for me to do but that?
 For Heav'n sake, come and drink! When I am nam'd,
 Men shall make answer, 'Which Ricardo mean you?
 'The excellent drinker?' I will have it so.
 Will you go drink?

Silvio. We drunk too much too lately.

Ric. Why, there is then the less behind to drink:
 Let's end it all! dispatch that, we'll send abroad,
 And purchase all the wine the world can yield;
 And drink it off; then take the fruits o'th' earth,
 Distil the juice from them, and drink that off;

We'll

We'll catch the rain before it fall to ground,
 And drink off that, that never more may grow²⁰;
 We'll set our mouths to springs, and drink them off;
 And all this while we'll never think of those
 That love us best, more than we did last night.
 We will not give unto the poor a drop
 Of all this drink; but, when we see them weep,
 We'll run to them, and drink their tears off too:
 We'll never leave whilst there is heat or moisture
 In this large globe; but suck it cold and dry,
 'Till we have made it elemental earth,
 Merely by drinking.

Pedro. Is it flattery
 To tell you, you are mad?

Ric. If it be false,
 There's no such way to bind me to a man;
 He that will have me lay my goods and lands,
 My life down for him, need no more but say,
 'Ricardo, thou art mad!' and then all these
 Are at his service; then he pleases me,
 And makes me think that I had virtue in me,
 That I had love and tendernefs of heart;
 That, tho' I have committed such a fault
 As never creature did, yet running mad,
 As honest men should do for such a crime,
 I have express'd some worth, tho' it be late:
 But I, alas, have none of these in me,
 But keep my wits still like a frozen man,
 That had no fire within him.

Silvio. Nay, good Ricardo,
 Leave this wild talk, and send a letter to her!
 I will deliver it.

Ric. 'Tis to no purpose;
 Perhaps she's lost last night; or, if she is
 Got home again, she's now so strictly look'd-to
 The wind can scarce come to her: Or, admit
 She were herself, if she would hear from me,

²⁰ *That never more may grow;* i. e. *That nothing more may ever grow.* The expression is strong, but not very clear. Edward.

From me unworthy, that have us'd her thus,
 She were so foolish that she were no more
 To be belov'd.

Enter Andrugio, and Servant with a night-gown.

Serv. Sir, we have found this night-gown she took
 with her.

Andr. Where²¹?

Ric. Where? where? speak quickly!

Serv. Searching in the suburbs,
 We found a Tinker and his whore that had
 It in a tap-house, whom we apprehended,
 And they confess'd they stole it from her.

Ric. And murder'd her?

Silvio. What ail you, man?

Ric. Why, all this doth not make
 Me mad.

Silvio. It does; you would not offer this else.
 Good Pedro, look to's sword!

Serv. They do deny
 The killing of her, but swore they
 Left her tied to a tree, i' th' fields next those
 Suburbs that are without Our Lady's gate,
 Near day, and by the road, so that some passenger
 Must needs untie her quickly.

Andr. The will of Heav'n be done! Sir, I will only
 Entreat you this, that as you were the greatest
 Occasion of her loss, that you'll be pleas'd
 To urge your friends, and be yourself earnest
 I' th' search of her: If she be found, she is yours,
 If she please. I myself only will see these people
 Better examined, and after follow
 Some way in search. God keep you, gentlemen! [*Ex.*]

Silvio. Alas, good man!

Ric. What think ye now of me? I think this lump
 Is nothing but a piece of phlegm congeal'd,
 Without a soul; for where there's so much spirit
 As would but warm a flea, those faults of mine

²¹ *Andr. Where?*] *Dropped since first folio.*

Would make it glow and flame in this dull heart,
And run like molten gold thro' every sin,
'Till it could burst these walls, and fly away.—
Shall I entreat you all to take your horses,
And search this innocent?

Pedro. With all our hearts.

Ric. Do not divide yourselves, till you come there
Where they say she was tied: I'll follow too,
But never to return till she be found.
Give me my sword, good Pedro! I will do
No harm, believe me, with it; I am now
Far better-temper'd: If I were not so,
I have enow besides. God keep you all,
And send us good success!

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T III.

Enter Mercury and Servant.

Merc. **W**HO is it? can you tell?

Serv. By my troth, Sir,
I know not; but it is a gentlewoman.

Merc. A gentlewoman²²? I'll lay my life, yon puppy
Has sent his wife to me: If he have, sling up the bed.

Serv. Here she is, Sir.

Enter Maria, with a letter.

Maria. I'm glad I found you, Sir. There, take
your letter,

And keep it till you have another friend to wrong!
'Tis too malicious false to make me sin;
You have provok'd me to be that I love not,
A talker, and you shall
Hear me. Why should you dare t' imagine me

²² *Merc. A gentleman.*] There is neither sense nor humour in this answer, and our Authors must undoubtedly have wrote it, *gentlewoman.*

So light a housewife, that, from four hours' knowledge,
 You might presume to offer to my credit
 This rude and ruffian trial? I am sure
 I never courted you, nor gave you tokens,
 That might concern assurance²³: You're a fool!

Merc. I cannot blame you, now I see this letter.
 Tho' you be angry, yet with me you must not,
 Unless you'll make me guilty of a wrong
 My worst affections hate.

Maria. Did not you send it?

Merc. No, upon my faith;
 And which is more, I understand it not:
 The hand is as far from my knowledge,
 As the malice.

Maria. This is strange!

Merc. It is so,
 And had been stranger, and indeed more hateful,
 Had I, that have receiv'd such courtesies,
 And owe so many thanks, done this base office.

Maria. Your name is at it.

Merc. Yes, but not my nature;
 And I shall hate my name worse than the manner²⁴,
 For this base broking. You are wise and virtuous,
 Remove this fault from me;
 For, on the love I bear to truth and goodness,
 This letter dare not name me for the author.

Maria. Now I perceive my husband's knavery!
 If my man can but find where he has been,
 I will go with this gentleman, whatsoever
 Comes on't; and, as I mean to carry it,

²³ Concern assurance.] Though the sense of this place be not hard to find out, yet I am afraid the expression is not very justifiable; as the word *tokens* occurs in the line above, I once thought we should read, *consign*, or *contain assurance*. *Symphon.*

²⁴ Than the manner.] *Manner* is certainly, as Mr. Seward saw with me, a corruption, and the true reading, which he concurred in, *matter*, i. e. the substance or contents of the letter to which his name was subscribed. *Symphon.*

Matter is probably right; yet *manner* is used in old books for the facts taken in the MANNER.

Both he and all the world shall think it fit,
And thank me for it.

Merc. I must confess I loved you at first;
Howe'er this made me leave your house unmannerly,
That might provoke me to do something ill,
Both to your honour and my faith, and not
To write this letter, which I hold so truly
Wicked, that I won't think on't.

Maria. I do believe you, and since I see you're free,
My words were not meant to you: But this is not
The half of my affliction.

Merc. It is pity
You should know more vexation; may I enquire?

Maria. Faith, Sir, I fear I've lost my husband.

Merc. Your husband? it can't be. I pity her;
How she is vex'd!

Enter Servant.

Maria. How now? what news? Nay, speak,
For we must know.

Serv. Faith, I have found at length,
By chance, where he has been.

Maria. Where?

Serv. In a blind
Out-house i' th' suburbs: Pray God all be well with
him!

Maria. Why?

Serv. There are his cloaths; but, what's become
of him,
I cannot yet enquire²⁵.

Maria. I'm glad of this.—
Sure they have murder'd him! What shall I do?

Merc. Be not so griev'd, before you know the truth!
You've time enough to weep. This is the sudden'st
Mischief—Did you not bring an officer
To search there, where you say you found his cloaths?

Serv. Yes; and we search'd it, and charg'd the
fellow with him;

²⁵ I cannot yet enquire.] Enquire means here find out. Symphon.

But he, like a rogue, a stubborn rogue, made answer,
He knew not where he was; he had been there,
But where he was now he could not tell:

I tell you true, I fear him.

Maria. Are all my hopes and longings to enjoy him,
After this three-years' travel, come to this?

Serv. It is the rankest house in all the city,
The most curs'd roguish bawdy-house! Hell fire it!

Merc. This is the worst I heard yet. Will you go home?

I'll bear you company, and give you the
Best help I may: This being here will wrong you.

Maria. As you're a gentleman, and as you lov'd
Your dead friend, let me not go home!
That will but heap one sorrow on another.

Merc. Why, propose any thing, and I'll perform't:
I am at my wits' end too.

Serv. So am I. Oh, my dear master!

Merc. Peace, you great fool!

Maria. Then, good Sir, carry me to some retir'd
place,

Far from the sight of this unhappy city;
Whither you will indeed, so it be far enough!

Merc. If I might counsel you, I think 'twere better
To go home, and try what may be done yet;
He may be at home afore you; who can tell?

Maria. Oh, no; I know he's dead, I know he's
murder'd!

Tell me not of going home! you murder me too.

Merc. Well, since it pleases you to have it so,
I will no more persuade you to go home;
I'll be your guide in the country, as your grief
Doth command me. I've a mother, dwelling from
This place some twenty miles: The house tho'
homely,

Yet able to shew something like a welcome;
Thither I'll see you safe with all your sorrows.

Maria. With all the speed that may be thought upon!
I have a coach here ready; good Sir, quickly!—

I'll fit you, my fine husband!

Merc. It shall be so:

If this fellow be dead, I see no band
Of any other man to tie me from my will;
And I will follow her with such careful service,
That she shall either be my love, or wife,
Will you walk in?

Maria. I thank you, Sir; but one word with my man,
And I am ready!—Keep the Irish fellow
Safe, as you love your life, for he I fear
Has a deep hand in this; then search again,
And get out warrants for that naughty man
That keeps the bad house, that he may answer it!
If you find the body, give it due burial.
Farewell! You shall hear from me. Keep all safe!

Serv. Oh, my sweet master! *[Exeunt.]*

Antonio, knocking within.

Ant. Man-a-cree,
The devil take thee, wilt thou kill me here?
I prithee now let me go seek my master;
I shall be very cheel else.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Do you hear, man-a-cree?
I'll cree your coxcomb, an you keep not still;
Down, you rogue!

Ant. Good sweet fact sarving-man,
Let me out, I beseech de, and by my trot
I will give dy worship two shillings in good argot,
To buy dy worship pipins.

Serv. This rogue thinks
All the worth of man consists in pipins: By this light,
I'll beat rebellion out of you for ever²⁶!

Ant. Wilt thou not hear me, man?
Is fet! I'll give thee all I have about me.

Serv. I thank you, Sir; so I may have picking work²⁷.

²⁶ *I'll beat rebellion out of you for ever.]* A second slur this upon
the rebellious Irish. *Sympson.*

²⁷ *May have picking work.]* Meaning he was lousy. *Sympson.*

Ant. Here is five shillings, man.

Serv. Here is a cudgel,

A very good one !

Enter two Servants.

2 Serv. How now ? what's the matter ?
Where is the Irishman ?

1 Serv. There, a wyth take him ²⁸ !

He makes more noise alone there, than ten lawyers
Can do with double fees, and a scurvy case ²⁹.

2 Serv. Let him out ! I must talk with him.

Enter Antonio.

Ant. Wilt thou give me
Some drink, oh, hone ? I am very dry, man.

2 Serv. You shall have that shall quench your thirst,
my friend.

Ant. Wat dost thou mean, man ?

2 Serv. Even a good tough halter.

²⁸ *A wyth take him.*] This expression seems to be equivalent to that now used by the vulgar, *a halter take him*. *A wyth* appears to have been a *band* or *halter*. ' I heard a tale of a butcher, who driving ' two calves over a common, that were coupled together by the necks ' with an *oaken wyth*. In the way where they should pass, there lay ' a poor lean mare, with a gall'd back, to whom they coming (as ' chance fell out) one of one side, and the other of the other, smell- ' ing on her, (as their manner is) the midst of the *wyth* that was ' betwixt their necks rubbed her and grated her on the sore back, that ' she started and rose up, and hung them both on her back as a beam ; ' which being but a rough plaister to her raw ulcer, she ran away ' with them (as she were frantic) into the fens, where the butcher ' cou'd not follow them, and drowned both herself and them in a ' quagmire. Now the owner of the mare is in law with the butcher ' for the loss of his mare, and the butcher interchangeably indicts ' him for his calves. *Pierce Penilesse his Supplication to the Devil*, by Tho. Nashe, 1593, p. 15.

This whimsical story so much resembles the case of Bullum and Boatum, told by the late Lecturer on Heads, that he might almost be suspected to have borrowed the idea from Nashe. *R.*

²⁹ *With double, and a scurvy case.*] Mr. Seward proposed reading *doubtful*, or *double and scurvy*, i. e. *doubly scurvy*. I only suppose a word has been dropt here by chance, and that the whole ran once,

double fees, and a scurvy cause.

i. e. doubly paid to plead a scurvy cause.

Symphon.

Ant.

Ant. A halter? oh, hone!

2 Serv. Sirrah,

You are a mischievous rogue, that's the truth.

Ant. No, fet I am not.

1 Serv. Shall I knock out his brains?

I have kill'd dogs have been worth three of him
For all uses.

2 Serv. Sirrah, the truth on't is,

You must with me to a justice. Oh, Roger, Roger!

1 Serv. Why, what's the matter, William?

2 Serv. Heavy news, Roger,
Heavy news; God comfort us!

1 Serv. What is't, man?

Ant. What's the matter now?—I am ev'n weary
Of this way: 'Would I were out on't!

2 Serv. My master fure

Is murder'd, Roger, and this cursed rogue,
I fear, has had a hand in't.

Ant. No, fet, not!

1 Serv. Stand away!

I'll kick it out of him: Come, sirrah, mount;
I'll make you dance, you rascal! kill my master?
If thy breech were cannon-proof, having this
Good cause on my side, I would encounter it;
Hold fair, Shamrock!

Ant. Why, how now, Sirs!

You will not murder me, indeed?

2 Serv. Bless us, Roger!

Ant. Nay, I am no spirit.

2 Serv. How do you, Sir?

This is my very master.

Ant. Why, well enough yet;

But you've a heavy foot of your own. Where's my
wife?

1 Serv. Alas, poor sorrowful gentlewoman,
She thinks you're dead, and has given o'er housekeeping.

Ant. Whither is she gone then?

1 Serv. Into the country

With the gentleman, your friend, Sir,

To see if she can wear her sorrows out there ;
She weeps and takes on too——

Ant. This falls out pat ;
I shall be everlasting for a name !—
Do you hear ? upon your lives and faiths to me,
Not one word I am living !
But let the same report pass along, that
I am murder'd still.—I'm made for ever !

1 Serv. Why, Sir ?

Ant. I have a cause, Sir ; that's enough for you.—
Well, if I be not famous, I am wrong'd much :
For any thing I know, I will not trouble him
This week at least ; no, let them take their way
One of another !

1 Serv. Sir, will you be still an Irishman ?

Ant. Yes, a while.

2 Serv. But your worship will be beaten no more ?

Ant. No, I thank you, William.

1 Serv. In truth, Sir, if it must be so, I'll do it
Better than a stranger.

Ant. Go ; you're knaves both !
But I forgive you.—I am almost mad
With the apprehension of what I shall be.—
Not a word, I charge you ! *[Exeunt.]*

Enter Valerio and Viola.

Val. Come, pretty soul, we now are near our home,
And whilst our horses are walk'd down the hill,
Let thou and I walk here over this close !
The footway is more pleasant. 'Tis a time,
My pretty one, not to be wept away,
For every living thing is full of love ;
Art not thou so too ? ha ?

Viola. Nay, there are living things
Empty of love, or I had not been here ;
But, for myself, alas, I have too much.

Val. It cannot be,
That so much beauty, so much youth and grace,
Should have too much of love,

Viola.

Viola. Pray what is love?

For I am full of that I do not know.

Val. Why, love, fair maid, is an extreme desire,
That's not to be examin'd, but fulfill'd;
To ask the reason why thou art in love,
Or what might be the noblest end in love,
Would overthrow that kindly-rising warmth,
That many times slides gently o'er the heart;
'Twould make thee grave and staid, thy thoughts
would be

Like a thrice-married widow, full of ends,
And void of all compassion; and, to fright thee
From such enquiry, whereas thou art now
Living in ignorance, mild, fresh, and sweet,
And but sixteen, the knowing what love is
Would make thee six and forty.

Viola. 'Would it would make me nothing!—I have
heard

Scholars affirm, the world's upheld by love,
But I believe, women maintain all this;
For there's no love in men.

Val. Yes, in some men.

Viola. I know them not.

Val. Why, there is love in me.

Viola. There's charity I'm sure towards me.

Val. And love,

Which I will now express: My pretty maid,
I dare not bring thee home; my wife is foul,
And therefore envious; she is very old,
And therefore jealous; thou art fair and young,
A subject fit for her unlucky vices
To work upon; she never will endure thee.

Viola. She may endure,
If she be aught but devil, all the friendship
That I will hold with you. Can she endure
I should be thankful to you? may I pray
For you and her? will she be brought to think,
That all the honest industry I have
Deserves brown bread? If this may be endur'd,

She'll

She'll pick a quarrel with a sleeping child,
Ere she fall out with me.

Val. But, trust me, she does hate all handsomeness.

Viola. How fell you in love with such a creature?

Val. I never lov'd her.

Viola. And yet married her?

Val. She was a rich one.

Viola. And you swore, I warrant you,
She was a fair one then too.

Val. Or, believe me,
I think I had not had her.

Viola. Are you men
All such? 'Would you would wall us in a place,
Where all we women that are innocent
Might live together!

Val. Do not weep at this:
Altho' I dare not, for some weighty reason,
Displease my wife, yet I'll forget not thee.

Viola. What will you do with me?

Val. Thou shalt be plac'd
At my man's house, and have such food and raiment
As can be bought with money: These white hands
Shall never learn to work, but they shall play,
As thou sayst they were wont, teaching the strings
To move in order, or what else thou wilt.

Viola. I thank you, Sir; but pray you cloath me
poorly,
And let my labour get me means to live!

Val. But, fair one, you I know do so much hate
A foul ingratitude, you will not look
I should do this for nothing.

Viola. I will work
As much out as I can, and take as little; and
That you shall have as duly paid to you
As ever servant did.

Val. But give me now
A trial of it, that I may believe!
We are alone; shew me how thou wilt kiss
And hug me hard, when I have stol'n away

From

From my too-clamorous wife that watches me,
To spend a blessed hour or two with thee!

Viola. Is this the love you mean? You would
have that

Is not in me to give; you would have lust.

Val. Not to dissemble, or to mince the word,
'Tis lust I wish indeed.

Viola. And, by my troth,
I have it not! For Heav'n's sake, use me kindly,
Tho' I be good, and shew perhaps a monster,
As this world goes!

Val. I do but speak to thee;
Thy answers are thy own; I compel none:
But if thou refuse this motion,
Thou art not then for me. Alas, good soul!
What profit can thy work bring me?

Viola. But I fear: I pray go! for lust, they say,
will grow

Outrageous, being denied. I give you thanks
For all your courtesies, and there's a jewel
That's worth the taking, that I did preserve
Safe from the robbers. Pray you leave me here
Just as you found me, a poor innocent,
And Heav'n will bless you for it!

Val. Pretty maid,
I am no robber, nor no ravisher.
I pray thee keep thy jewel. I have done
No wrong to thee. Tho' thou be'st virtuous,
And in extremity, I do not know
That I am bound to keep thee.

Viola. No, Sir;
For God's sake, if you know an honest man
In all these countries, give me some directions
To find him out!

Val. More honest than myself,
Good sooth, I do not know: I would have lain
With thee, with thy consent; and who would not
In all these parts, is past my memory,
I'm sorry for thee. Farewell, gentle maid;

God

God keep thee safe!

[*Exit.*]

Viola. I thank you, Sir; and you!
 Woman, they say, was only made of man:
 Methinks 'tis strange they should be so unlike!
 It may be, all the best was cut away
 To make the woman, and the naught was left
 Behind with him.—I'll sit me down and weep!
 All things have cast me from 'em but the earth:
 The evening comes, and every little flower
 Droops now, as well as I.

Enter Nan and Madge, with milk-pails.

Nan. Good Madge,
 Let's rest a little; by my troth, I'm weary.
 This new pail is a plaguy heavy one; 'would Tom
 Were hang'd for chusing it! 'tis the untoward't
 Fool in a country.

Madge. With all my heart, and I thank you too, Nan.

Viola. What true contented happiness dwells here,
 More than in cities! 'Would to God my father
 Had liv'd like one of these, and bred me up
 To milk, and do as they do! Methinks 'tis
 A life that I would chuse, if I were now
 To tell my time again, above a prince's.—Maids,
 For charity, give a poor wench one draught of milk,
 That weariness and hunger have nigh famish'd!

Nan. If I'd but one cow's milk in all the world,
 You should have some on't: There; drink more!
 the cheese

Shall pay for it. Alas, poor heart, she's dry.

Madge. Do you dwell hereabouts?

Viola. No; 'would I did!

Nan. Madge, if she does not look like my cousin Sue
 O'th' Moor-lane, as one thing can look like another.

Madge. Nay; Sue has a hazle eye, I know Sue well;
 And, by your leave, not so trim a body neither;
 This is a feat-bodied thing I tell you.

Nan. She laces close
 By the mafs, I warrant you; and so does Sue too.

Viola.

Viola. I thank you for your gentleness, fair maids.

Nan. Drink again, pray thee!

Viola. I'm satisfied; and Heav'n reward thee for't!
Yet thus far I'll compel you, to accept
These trifles, toys only that express my thanks,
For greater worth I'm sure they have not in them.
Indeed you shall; I found them as I came.

Nan. Madge! look you here, Madge!

Madge. Nay, I have as fine a one as you; mine is
All gold, and painted, and a precious stone in't:
I warrant it cost a crown, wench.

Nan. But mine
Is the most sumptuous one, that e'er I saw.

Viola. One favour you must do me more, for you
Are well acquainted here.

Nan. Indeed we'll do you any kindness, sister.

Viola. Only to send me to some honest place,
Where I may find a service.

Nan. Udsme, our Dorothy went away but last week,
And I know my mistress wants a maid, and why
May she not be plac'd there? This is a likely wench,
I tell you truly, and a good wench, I warrant her.

Madge. And 'tis a hard case, if we that have serv'd
Four years apiece, cannot bring in one servant;
We will prefer her. Hark you, sister!
Pray what's your name?

Viola. Melvia.

Nan. A feat name, i'faith! And can you milk a cow?
And make a merry-bush? That's nothing.

Viola. I shall learn quickly.

Nan. And dress a house with flowers? and serve
a pig?

(This you must do, for we deal in the dairy)
And make a bed or two?

Viola. I hope I shall.

Nan. But be sure to keep the men out; they will mar
All that you make else, I know that by myself;
For I have been so touz'd among 'em in
My days! Come, you shall e'en home with us,

And

And be our fellow ; our house is so honest,
 And we serve a very good woman, and a gentlewoman !
 And we live as merrily, and dance o' good days
 After even-song. Our wake shall be on Sunday :
 Do you know what a wake is ? We have mighty
 cheer then,

And such a coil, 'twould bless ye ! You must not
 Be so bashful, you'll spoil all.

Madge. Let's home, for God's sake !
 My mistress thinks by this time we are lost.
 Come, we'll have a care of you, I warrant you :
 But you must tell my mistress where you were born,
 And every thing that belongs to you, and the strangest
 things

You can devise, for she loves those extremely ;
 'Tis no matter whether they be true or no, she's not
 so scrupulous.

You must be our sister, and love us best,
 And tell us every thing ; and when cold weather
 Comes, we'll lie together : Will you do this ?

Viola. Yes.

Nan. Then home again, o' God's name ?

Can you go apace ?

Viola. I warrant you.

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T IV.

Enter Pedro and Silvio²⁹, severally.

Pedro. **H**OW now ? any good news yet ?
Silvio. Faith, not any yet.

Pedro. This comes o' tippling : Would'twere treason,
 An't please God, to drink more than three
 Draughts at a meal.

²⁹ *Enter Pedro and Uberto severally.*] The dissonance between the
 persons in the stage direction, and those in the text, is too glaring
 to be overlooked.

Symphon.

Silvio.

Silvio. When did you see Ricardo?

Pedro. I cross'd him twice to-day.

Silvio. You have heard of

A young wench that was seen last night?

Pedro. Yes.

Silvio. Has Ricardo heard of this?

Pedro. Yes; and I think

He's ridden after. Farewell! I will have

Another round.

Silvio. If you hear any thing,

Pray spare no horse-flesh; I will do the like.

Pedro. Do. [Exeunt.]

Enter Ricardo and Valerio.

Ric. Sir, I did think 'twas you, by all descriptions.

Val. 'Tis so;

I took her up indeed, the manner how

You've heard already, and what she had about her,

(As jewels, gold, and other trifling things)

And what my end was, which, because she fled,

I left her there i'th' fields.

Ric. Left i'th' fields? Could any but a rogue,

That had despis'd humanity and goodness,

Heav'n's law and credit, and had set himself

To lose his noblest part, and be a beast,

Have left so innocent unmatch'd a virtue

To the rude mercy of a wilderness?

Val. Sir, if you come to rail, pray quit my house!

I do not use to have such language given

Within my doors to me. As for your wench,

You may go seek her with more patience;

She's tame enough, I warrant you.

Ric. Pray forgive me,

(I do confess my much forgetfulness)

And weigh my words no further, I beseech you,

Than a mere madness! for such a grief has seiz'd me,

So strong and deadly, as a punishment,

And a just one too,

That 'tis a greater wonder I am living,

Than any thing I utter. Yet, let me tell you
Thus much; it was a fault for leaving her
So in the fields.

Val. Sir, I will think so now;
And credit me, you have so wrought me with
Your grief, that I do both forgive and pity you:
And if you'll please to take a bed this night here,
Tomorrow I will bring you where I left her.

Ric. I thank you, no! Shall I be so unworthy
To think upon a bed, or ease, or comfort,
And have my heart stray from me, God knows where,
Cold and forsaken, destitute of friends,
And all good comforts else, unless some tree,
Whose speechless charity must better ours,
With which the bitter East winds made their sport
And sung thro' hourly, hath invited her
To keep off half a day³⁰? Shall she be thus,
And I draw in soft slumbers? God forbid!
No, night and bitter coldness, I provoke thee,
And all the dews that hang upon thy locks,
Showers, hails, snows, frosts, and two-edg'd winds
that prime³¹

The maiden blossoms; I provoke you all,

³⁰ *To keep off half a day?*] 'Tis pity this fine passage should be clog'd with the least obscurity. But what is *half a day* here? The twelve hours of the night? Or may *day* here signify the *open air*, as the miners use it in Derbyshire. When the ore is brought from under ground, they say, *It's brought to day*. If this last may be allow'd, the sentiment is extremely just. *To keep off only half the inclemency of the air.* *Sympson.*

The expression, we think, means *to keep off the weather during half a day*: 'The twelve hours of the night,' is a ridiculous preciseness.

³¹ ————— *that prime*

The maiden blossoms.] Here we have another difficulty to encounter, which I am afraid is not capable of being explained into sense, and therefore must be cured another way. *To prime blossoms*, i. e. to nip, or make them wither, is, I fancy, an expression for which there can be found no authority, and so the less likely to have any claim for a place here. There are two ways of making this passage sense; the first is by reading thus, *that prune*, &c. which Mr. Seward concurr'd with me in; the other, and which I like better, is this;

———— *that*

And dare expose this body to your sharpness,
'Till I be made a land-mark!

Val. Will you then stay
And eat with me?

Ric. You're angry with me, I know you're angry;
You would not bid me eat else. My poor mistress,
For aught I know, thou'rt famish'd; for what else
Can the fields yield thee, and the stubborn season,
That yet holds in the fruit? Good gentle Sir,
Think not ill manners in me for denying
Your offer'd meat! for sure I cannot eat
While I do think she wants. Well, I'm a rascal,
A villain, slave, that only was begotten
To murder women, and of them the best.

Val. This is a strange affliction! If you will
Accept no greater courtesy, yet drink, Sir.

Ric. Now I am sure you hate me: An you knew
What kind of man I am—as indeed 'tis fit
That every man should know me, to avoid me.
If you have peace within you, Sir, or goodness,
Name that abhorr'd word *drink* no more unto me!
You had safer strike me.

I pray you do not, if you love me, do not!

Val. Sir, I mean no ill by't.

Ric. It may be so;
Nor let me see none, Sir, if you love Heav'n!
You know not what offence it is unto me;
Nor, good now, do not ask me why: And I warn
You once again, let no man else speak of it!
I fear your servants will be prating to me:

Val. Why, Sir, what ail you?

Ric. I hate drink, there's the end on't;
And that man that drinks with meat is damn'd¹²,

that pine
The maiden blossoms.

Symphon.

Perhaps *prime the maiden blossoms*, might have been intended to
signify to cut them off in their PRIME.

¹² And that man that drinks with meat is damn'd] As the line is
deficient by a syll. ble. why may we not preserve the sentiment, and
restore the measure, by reading thus;

And that man that drinks without meat is damn'd.

Symphon.

Without

Without an age of prayers and repentance ;
 And there's a hazard too : Good Sir, no more !
 If you will do me a free courtesy,
 That I shall know for one, go take your horse,
 And bring me to the place where you left her.

Val. Since you are so importunate, I will :
 But I will wish, Sir, you had stay'd to-night ;
 Upon my credit, you shall see no drink.

Ric. Be gone ! the hearing of it makes me giddy :
 Sir, will you be entreated to forbear it ?
 I shall be mad else.

Val. I pray no more of that !
 I'm quiet ; I'll but walk in, and away straight.

Ric. Now I thank you ! But what you do,
 Do in a twinkling, Sir !

Val. As soon as may be. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Mother, Viola, Nan, and Madge.

Mother. Is this the wench ? You've brought me
 some catch, I warrant.

How daringly she looks upon the matter !

Madge. Yes, forsooth, this is the maiden.

Mother. Come hither ! Would you serve ?

Viola. If it shall please you to accept my service ;
 I hope I shall do something that shall like you,
 Tho' it be but truth, and often praying for you.

Mother. You are very curious of your hand methinks,
 You preserve it so with gloves : Let me see it !
 Ay, marry, here's a hand of marchpane, wenches !
 This pretty palm never knew sorrow yet :
 How soft it is, I warrant you, and supple !
 O' my word, this is fitter for a pocket,
 To filch withal, than to work : I fear me, little one,
 You are no better than you should be ; go to !

Viola. My conscience yet is but one witness to me,
 And that, Heav'n knows, is of mine innocence :
 'Tis true, I must confess with shame enough,
 The time that I have led yet never taught me
 What 'twas to break a sleep, or to be weary.

Mother.

Mother. You can say well;
If you be mine, wench, you must do well too,
For words are but slow workers: Yet, so much
Hope I have of you, that I'll take you, so
You will be diligent, and do your duty.
How now?

Enter Alexander.

Alex. There is a messenger come
From your son, that brings you word he is return'd
From travel, and will be here this night.

Mother. Now joy upon thee for it! thou art ever
A bringer of good tidings; there, drink that!
In troth th' hast much contented me. My son?
Lord, how thou hast pleas'd me! shall I see my son
Yet ere I die? Take care my house be handsome,
And the new stools set out, and boughs and rushes,
And flow'rs for the window, and the Turkey carpet,
And the great parcel salt, Nan, with the cruets!
And prithee, Alexander, go to th' cook,
And bid him spare for nothing, my son's come home!
Who's come with him?

Alex. I hear of none yet, but a gentlewoman.

Mother. A gentlewoman? what gentlewoman?

Alex. I know not; but such a one there is, he says.

Mother. Pray God he have not cast away himself
Upon some snout-fair piece! I do not like it.

Alex. No, sure my master has more discretion.

Mother. Well, be it how it will he shall be welcome.
Sirs, to your tasks, and shew this little novice
How to bestir herself! I'll fort out things. [*Exit.*]

Madge. We will, forsooth: I can tell you, my mistress
Is a stirring woman.

Nan. Lord, how she'll talk sometimes!
It is the maddest cricket——

Viola. Methinks she talks well,
And shews a great deal of good housewifery.
Pray let me deck the chambers, shall I?

Nan. Yes,

You shall; but do not scorn to be advis'd,
Sister, for there belongs more to that than

You are aware on: Why

Would you venture so fondly upon the strowings?

There's mighty matters in them, I'll assure you,

And in the spreading of a bough-pot; you

May miss, if you were ten years elder, if

You take not especial care before you.

Viola. I will learn willingly, if that be all.

Nan. Sirrah, where is't they say my young master
hath been?

Madge. Faith I know not; beyond the sea, where they
Are born without noses.

Nan. Jesse, bless us! without noses?

How do they do for handkerchiefs?

Madge. So Richard says:

And, sirrah, their feet stand in their foreheads.

Nan. That's fine,

By my troth! These men have pestilent running heads
then.

Do they speak as we do?

Madge. No, they never speak.

Nan. Are they cursen'd?

Madge. No, they call them infidels;

I know not what they are.

Nan. Sirrah, we shall have

Fine courting now my young master is come home.

Were you never courted, filter?

Viola. Alas, I know it not.

Madge. What is that courting, sirrah?

Nan. I can tell, for

I was once courted in the matted chamber:

You know the party, Madge; faith, he courted finely!

Madge. Pray thee what is't?

Nan. Faith, nothing, but he was somewhat

Figent with me; faith, 'tis fine sport, this courting.

Alex. [within.] Where be the maids there?

Madge. We shall be hang'd anon! Away, good
wenches!

And

And have a care you dight things handsomely ;
I will look over you. [Exeunt.

Enter Mercury and Maria.

Merc. If your sorrow
Will give you so far leave, pray think yourself
Most welcome to this place, for so upon
My life you are ; and for your own fair sake,
Take truce awhile with these immoderate mournings !

Maria. I thank you, Sir ; I shall do what I may.
Pray lead me to a chamber.

Enter Mother and Alexander.

Merc. Presently.

Before your blessing, Mother, I entreat you
To know this gentlewoman, and bid her welcome ;
The virtuous wife of him that was myself
In all my travels ! [Kneels.

Mother. Indeed she is most welcome ; so are you, son.
Now, all my blessing on thee, thou hast made me
Younger by twenty years than I was yesterday !
Will you walk in ? What ails this gentlewoman ?
Alas, I fear she is not well : Good gentlewoman !

Merc. You fear right.

Mother. Sh'has fasted over-long ;
You shall have supper presently o'th' board.

Merc. She will not eat, I can assure you, Mother.
For God's sake, let your maid conduct her up
Into some fair-becoming chamber, fit for
A woman of her being, and as soon as may be !
I know she's very ill, and would have rest.

Mother. There is one ready for her, the blue chamber.

Merc. 'Tis well : I'll lead you to your chamber-door,
And there I'll leave you to your quiet, mistress.

Maria. I thank you, Sir ! Good rest to every one !
You'll see me once again to-night, I hope. [Exit.

Merc. When you shall please, I'll wait upon you, lady.

Mother. Where are these maids ? Attend upon the
gentlewoman,
And see she want no good thing in the house !

Good night with all my heart, forsooth!—Good Lord,
How you are grown! Is he not, Alexander?

Alex. Yes, truly; he's shot up finely, God be thanked!

Merc. An ill weed, Mother, will do so.

Alex. You say true, Sir; an ill weed grows apace.

Merc. Alexander the sharp, you take me very quickly.

Mother. Nay, I can tell you, Alexander will do it.
Do you read Madcap still?

Alex. Sometimes, forsooth.

Mother. But, faith, son, what countries have you
travell'd?

Merc. Why, many, Mother, as they lay before me;
France, Spain, Italy, and Germany,
And other provinces, that I am sure
You are not better'd by, when you hear of them.

Mother. And can you these tongues perfectly?

Merc. Of some

A little, Mother.

Mother. Pray, spout some French, son.

Merc. You understand it not; and to your ears 'twill
Go like an unshod cart upon the stones,
Only a rough unhandsome sound.

Mother. Faith, I would fain
Hear some French.

Alex. Good Sir, speak some French
To my mistress.

Merc. At your entreaty, Alexander,
I will. Who shall I speak to?

Alex. If your worship
Will do me the favour, Sir, to me.

Merc. *Monsieur poltron,*
Cocu, couillon, baissez mon cû!

Alex. *Oui, monsieur.*

Mother. Ha, ha, ha! this is fine indeed!
God's blessing on thy heart, son! By my troth,
Thou'rt grown a proper gentleman! *Cullen* and *pullen*,
Good God, what aukward words they use beyond the
seas!

Ha,

Ha, ha, ha!

Alex. Did not I answer right?

Merc. Yes, good Alexander,
If you had done so too. But, good Mother,
I am very hungry, and have rid far to-day,
And am fasting.

Mother. You shall have your supper presently,
My sweet son.

Merc. As soon as you please; which, once ended,
I'll go and visit yon sick gentlewoman.

Mother. Come then! [Exeunt.

Enter Antonio like a post, with a letter.

Ant. I've ridden like a fury, to make up this work;
And I will do it bravely, ere I leave it.
This is the house, I am sure.

Enter Alexander.

Alex. Who would
You speak with, Sir?

Ant. Marry, Sir, I'd speak with
A gentlewoman came this night late here from the city:
I have some letters of importance to her.
I am a post, Sir, and would be dispatch'd
In haste.

Alex. Sir, cannot I deliver 'em?
For, the truth is, she's ill, and in her chamber.

Ant. Pray pardon me; I must needs speak with her,
My business is so weighty.

Alex. I'll tell her so,
And bring you present word. [Exit.

Ant. Pray do so, and I'll attend her.
Pray God, the grief of my imagin'd death
Spoil not what I intend! I hope it will not.

Re-enter Alexander.

Alex. Tho' she be very ill, and desires no trouble,
Yet, if your business be so urgent, you may
Come up and speak with her.

Ant.

Ant. I thank you, Sir;
I follow you.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Maria.

Maria. What should this fellow be,
I' th' name of Heav'n, that comes with such post
business?

Sure my husband hath reveal'd himself,
And in this haste sent after me. Are you
The post, my friend?

Enter Antonio.

Ant. Yes, forsooth, mistress.

Maria. What good news hast thou brought me,
gentle post?

For I have woe and grief too much already.

Ant. I would you had less, mistress, I could wish it.—
Beswore my heart, she moves me cruelly!

Maria. Have I found you once more, juggler?
Well, jewel, thou hast only virtue in thee,
Of all I read of yet: What ears has this ass
To betray him with!—Well, what's your business then?

Ant. I've brought a letter from your servant, mistress,
In haste.

Maria. Pray give it me; I hope the best still.

Ant. This is the upshot, and I know I've hit it!
Well, if the spirits of the dead do walk,
I shall hear more of this an hundred years hence.

Maria [*reading*]. By any means, you must have
special care;

For now the city is possess'd for certain,
My master is made away; which, for aught I know,
Is a truth indeed.

Good mistress, leave your grief, and see your danger,
And let that wise and noble gentleman
With whom you are be your right-hand in all things!

Ant. Now do I know I have the better on't!
By th' languishing of her eye at this near instant,
It is still simmering in her blood, in coining
Somewhat

Somewhat to turn Mercury, I know it.

Maria. He is my husband, and 'tis reasonable
He should command in all things: Since he will be
An afs against the hair³³, at his own peril
Be it!—I' th' morning you shall have a packet,
'Till when I must entreat you stay; you shall
Not lose by it.

Ant. I do not doubt it, mistress;
I'll leave you to your rest, and wait your pleasure.

Maria. Do; and seek out the gentleman o' th' house;
Bid him come to me presently.

Ant. Who? Mr. Mercury?

Maria. Do you know him, post?

Ant. Only by sight, forsooth:
Now I remember, your servant willed me
To let you know he is the only man
You and your fortunes are now to rest upon.

Maria. Prithee, no more; I know all this already.

Ant. I'll take my leave now.—I am made for ever!

Maria. Good night!— [Exit *Ant.*
I am provided for you, my fine youth. [Exit.

*Enter Mother, beating Viola, and Alexander with a
broken glass.*

Mother. I'll make thee have more care.

Viola. Good mistress, pardon me!

Mother. Thou'lt ne'er be good, I warrant thee!
Can your fine fingers hold no faster?

Viola. Indeed,
It was against my will.

³³ *Against the hair.*] In the First Part of Henry IV. Worcester says,

'The quality and *hair* of our attempt

'Brooks no division;'

and Dr. Johnson remarks, that 'the *hair* seems to be the *complexion*,
'the *character*. The metaphor appears harsh to us, but, perhaps,
'was familiar in our Author's time. We still say, something is *against*
'the *hair*, as *against the grain*, that is, against the natural ten-
'dency;' and Mr. Steevens adds, 'In an old comedy called
'The Family of Love, I meet with an expression which very
'well supports Dr. Johnson's first explanation: "They say, I am
'of the right *hair*, and indeed they may stand to't."

Mother. Alexander,

Let's see the glass ! As I'm true kirsome woman,
It is one of the chrystal glasses my cousin sent me !
And the baggage hath broke it where it cannot be
mended.

Alexander, can Humphry mend this, think you?

Alex. No, truly, this will ne'er be mended.

Viola. Truly,

I meant but to wash it for the gentlewoman
That's sick above, and, shaking out the water,
Knock'd it against the pail-side.

Mother. Did you so?

Be sure I'll stop it ! 'twill make a good gap in
Your quarter's wages, I can tell you.

Viola. I pray forgive me,
And let me have no wages this first quarter.

Mother. Go, whimling, and fetch two or three
grating loves

Out of the kitchen, to make gingerbread of.

'Tis such an untoward thing! [Exit Viola.

Alex. She's somewhat simple,
Indeed; she knew not what a kimnel ³⁴ was;
She wants good nurture mightily.

Mother. My son tells me, Alexander,
That this young widow means to sojourn here ;
She offers largely for her board, I may
Offer her good cheer. Prithee make a step
I' th' morning down to th' parsonage for some pigeons !
What, are you mad there ? what noise is that ?
Are you at bowls within ? Why do you whine ?

Enter Viola weeping.

Viola. I have done another fault ; I beseech you,
Sweet mistress, forgive me !

Mother. What's the matter?

Viola. As I was reaching for the bread that lay
Upon the shelf, I have thrown down the minc'd-meat,
That should have made the pies tomorrow.

54 *Kimnel.*] Or *kemlin*, is a powdering-tub.

Mother. Get thee
Out of my house, thou filthy destroying harlot thou!
I'll not keep thee an hour longer.

Viola. Good mistress, beat me rather for my fault,
As much as it deserves! I do not know
Whither to go.

Mother. No, I warrant thee; out of my doors!

Viola. Indeed I'll mend. I pray speak you for me!

Alex. If thou hadst hurl'd down any thing but the
pie-meat,

I would have spoke for thee; but now I cannot
Find in my heart.

Mother. Art thou here yet? I think I must have
An officer to thrust thee out of my doors, must I?

Viola. Why, you may stop this in my wages too;
For God's sake, do! I'll find myself this year,
And let me stay.

Mother. Thou't spoil ten times as much.
I'll cudgel thee out of my doors.

Viola. I am assur'd you are more merciful,
Than thus to beat me and discharge me too.

Mother. Dost thou dispute with me? Alexander, carry
The prating hilding forth.

Viola. Good mistress, hear me! I have here a jewel
My mother left me, and 'tis something worth:
Receive it; and when all my faults together
Come to the worth of that, then turn me forth;
'Till then, I pray you keep me.

Mother. What juggumbob have we here?
Pray God, you have not pilfer'd this somewhere.
Thou'rt such a puling thing! Wipe your eyes,
And rise; go your ways. Alexander,
Bid the cook mince some more meat. Come,
And get you to bed quickly, that you may
Up betime i' th' morning a-milking,
Or you and I shall fall out worse yet.

[*Exeunt Mother and Alex.*]

Viola. Sh'has hurt my arm:
I am afraid she's a very angry woman,

But

But, blefs him, Heav'n, that did me the moft wrong!
I am afraid Antonio's wife fhould fee me;
She will know me.

Mother [*within*]. Melvia!

Viola. I'm coming; ſhe's not angry again, I hope.
[*Exit*.]

Enter Mercury.

Merc. Now what am I the better for enjoying
This woman, that I lov'd fo? All I find,
That I before imagin'd to be happy,
Now I have done it, turns to nothing elfe
But a poor, pitied, and a bafe repentance.
Udsfoot, I'm monſtrous angry with myſelf!
Why ſhould a man, that has diſcourſe and reaſon,
And knows how near he loſes all in theſe things,
Covet to have his wiſhes ſatiſfied?
Which, when they are, are nothing but the ſhame.
I do begin to loath this woman ſtrangely,
And I think juſtly too, that durſt adventure
Flinging away her modeſty, to take
A ſtranger to her bed, (her huſband's body
Being ſcarce cold i'th' earth) for her content.
It was no more to take my ſenſes with,
Than if I had an idle dream in ſleep:
Yet I have made her promiſes, which grieves me,
And I muſt keep 'em too.—I think ſhe hunts me!
The devil cannot keep theſe women off,
When they are fleſh'd once³⁵.

Enter Maria, in night attire.

Maria. To bed, for God's ſake, Sir!
Why do you ſtay here? Some are up i'th' houſe;
I heard the wife. Good dear ſweetheart, to bed.

Merc. Why, I am going! Why do you follow me?
You would not have it known, I hope. Pray get you
Back to your chamber! the door's hard by. For me,
Let me alone; I warrant you!—This 'tis

³⁵ Fletched *once*.] Corrected in 1750.

To thresh well ; I have got a customer !

Will you go to bed ?

Maria. Will you ?

Merc. Yes, I am going.

Maria. Then remember your promise you made to marry me.

Merc. I will ; but it was your fault, that it came To this pinch now, that it must need remembrance : For, out of honesty, I offer'd you To marry you first ; why did you slack that offer ?

Maria. Alas, I told you th' inconvenience of it, And what wrong it would appear to th' world, If I had married you in such post-haste After his death : Beside, the foolish people Would have been bold to have thought we had lain Together in his time, and like enough Imagined we two had murder'd him.

Merc. I love her tongue yet ! If I were a saint, A gilded saint, and such a thing as this Should prate thus wittily and feelingly Unto my holiness, I cannot tell, But I fear shrewdly I should do something That would quite scratch me out o'th' kalendar ; And if I stay longer talking with her, tho' I'm mad At what I have done already, yet I shall Forget myself again : I feel the devil Ready to hold my stirrup.—Pray, to bed ! Good night !

Maria. This kifs ! good night, sweet love, And peace go with thee !—Thou hast prov'd thyself Th' honestest man that ever was entic'd To that sweet sin, as people please to call it, Of lying with another's wife ; and I I think the honestest woman, without Blushing, that e'er lay with another man. I sent my husband into the cellar, post, Fearing, and justly, he should have known him ; Which I did not purpose 'till I had had my end. Well, now this plot is perfect, let him brag on't. [*Exit.*]

A C T V.

Enter Justice and Curio with a paper.

Just. **B**YRLADY, Sir, you've rid hard, that you have.
Curio. They that have business must do so,
 I take it.

Just. You say true. When set you out, my friend?

Curio. About ten o'clock; and I have rid all night.

Just. By th' mass, you're tough indeed. I've seen
 the day

I would have rid too with the proudest of them,
 And sling dirt in their faces, and I've done't with
 This foolish body³⁶, Sir, many a time:

But what can last always? 'Tis done, 'tis done now, Sir!
 Age, care, and office, bring us to our footcloths,
 The more the pity!

Curio. I believe that, Sir;

But will it please you to read the business?

Just. My friend, I can read, and I can tell you when.

Curio. 'Would I could too, Sir! for my haste requires it.

Just. Whence comes it, do you say?

Curio. Sir, from the city.

Just. Oh, from the city; 'tis a reverend place——

Curio. An his justice be as short as his memory,
 A dudgeon-dagger³⁷ will serve him to mow down
 Sin withal: What clod-pole commissioner is this!

Just. And, by my faith, govern'd by worthy members,
 Discreet and upright.

³⁶ *This foolish boy.*] As *boy* has nothing to which it can be referr'd, I conjectur'd we should read *body*, and Mr. Theobald, I found, had wrote the same in his margin. *Symphon.*

³⁷ *Dudgeon-dagger.*] Cotgrave explains *dague a roëlles*, a Scottish dagger or *dudgeon haff dagger*. *R.*

Curio.

Curio. Sir, they're beholding to you;
You've given some of them a commendation,
They were not worthy of this twenty years.

Just. Go to, go to! you have a merry meaning;
I've found you, Sir; i'faith, you are a wag;
Away, fy!—Now I'll read your letter.

Curio. Pray do, Sir. What a misery it is
To have an urgent business wait the justice
Of such an old tuff-taffata, that knows not,
Nor can be brought to understand, more sense
Than how to restore suppress'd alehouses,
And have his man compound small trespasses,
For ten groats!

Just. Sir, it seems here your
Business is of a deeper circumstance
Than I conceiv'd it for.—What do you mean, Sir?

Curio. 'Tis for mine own ease, I'll assure your
worship.

Just. It shall not be, i'faith, friend.—Here I have it,
That one Antonio, a gentleman—
I take it so; yes, it is so—a gentleman,
Is lately thought to have been made away;
And, by my faith, upon a parlous ground too,
If you consider. Well, there's knavery in't;
I see that without spectacles.

Curio. Sure this fellow
Deals in revelation, he's so hidden:
Gothy ways! thou wilt stick a bench, spit³⁸ as formally,
And shew thy agot and hatch'd chain, as well
As the best of them.

Just. And now I have consider'd, I believe it.

Curio. What, Sir?

Just. That he was murder'd.

Curio. Did you know him?

Just. No.

Curio. Nor how it is suppos'd?

Just. No; nor

I care not two-pence, those are toys; and yet

³⁸ *Stick a bench spit.*] Amended in 1750.

I verily believe he was murder'd,
 As sure as I believe thou art a man.
 I never fail'd in these things yet. Ware a man
 That's beaten to these matters; experience
 Is a certain conceal'd thing that fails not.
 Pray let me ask you one thing; why do you come to me?

Curio. Because the letter is address'd to you,
 Being the nearest justice.

Just. The nearest? is that all?

Curio. I think it be, Sir;—

I would be loth you should be the wisest.

Just. Well, Sir, as 'tis, I will endeavour in it:
 Yet, if't had come to me by name, I know not,
 But I think it had been as soon dispatch'd
 As by another, and with as round a wisdom,
 Ay, and as happily; but that's all one:
 I've borne this place this thirty years, and upwards,
 And with sufficient credit, and they may
 When they please know me better. To the nearest?
 Well!

Curio. Sir, 'tis not my fault, for had I known
 You sooner——

Just. I thank you, Sir; I know it.

Curio. I'll be sworn

You should have play'd, for any business now.

Just. And further, they have specified unto me,
 His wife's forely suspected in this matter,
 As a main cause.

Curio. I think she be, Sir, for
 No other cause can be yet found.

Just. And one Mercury, a traveller, with whom
 They say directly she is run away,
 And as they think this way.

Curio. I knew all this before.

Just. Well, Sir, this Mercury I know, and's breeding;
 A neighbour's child hard by: You have been happy,
 Sir, in coming hither.

Curio. Then you know where
 To have him, Sir?

Just.

Just. I do, Sir; he dwells near me.

Curio. I doubt your worship dwells near a knave then;

Just. I think so; pray put on! But 'tis a wonder
To see how graceless people are now given,
And how base virtue is accounted with them,
That should be all in all, as says a wise man!
I tell you, Sir, and 'tis true, that there have been
Such murders, and of late days, as 'twould make
Your very heart bleed in you; and some of them,
As I shall be enabled, I will tell you.
It fell out of late days——

Curio. It may be so,
But will it please you to proceed in this?

Just. An honest weaver, and as good a workman
As e'er shot shuttle, and as close—
But ev'ry man must die—this honest weaver,
Being a little mellow in his ale—
That was the evidence *verbatim*, Sir—
God bless the mark, sprung his neck just in this place:
Well, Jarvis, thou hadst wrongs, and if I live
Some of the best shall sweat for't! Then a wench—

Curio. But, Sir, you have forgot my business.

Just. A sober pretty maid, about seventeen
They say, certainly, howsoe'er 'tis shuffled,
She burst herself, and fondly, if it be so,
With furemety at a churching; but I think
The devil had another agent in't;
Either of which, if I can catch, shall stretch for't.

Curio. This is a mad Justice, that will hang the devil!
But I would you would be short in this, before
That other notice can be given.

Just. Sir,
I'll do discreetly what is fitting. What,
Antonio!

Serv. [*within*]. Your worship!

Just. Put on your best coat,
And let your fellow Mark go to the constable,
And bid him aid me with all the speed he can,
And all the power; and provide pen and ink to

Take their confessions; and my long sword³⁹!
I cannot tell what danger we may meet with.
You'll go with us?

Curio. Yes; what else?

I came to that end to accuse both parties.

Just. May I crave what you are?

Curio. Faith, Sir, one

That to be known would not profit you, more
Than a near kinsman of the dead Antonio's.

Just. 'Tis well. I'm sorry for my neighbour, truly,
That he had no more grace; 'twill kill his mother:
She is a good old woman. Will you walk in?
I will but put my cloak on, and my chain off,
And a clean band, and have my shoes black'd over,
And shift my jerkin, and we'll to our business;
And you shall see how I can bout these matters.

Curio. As soon as't please you, Sir. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Valerio and Ricardo.

Val. This is the place; here did I leave the maid
Alone last night, drying her tender eyes,
Uncertain what to do, and yet desirous
To have me gone.

Ric. How rude are all we men,
That take the name of civil to ourselves!
If she had set her foot upon an earth
Where people live that we call barbarous,
Tho' they had had no house to bring her to,
They would have spoil'd the glory that the spring
Has deck'd the trees in, and with willing hands
Have torn their branches down; and every man
Would have become a builder for her sake.
What time left you her here.

Val. I left her, when
The sun had so much to his set, as he

³⁹ *Long sword.*] In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Capulet says, 'Give me my *long sword*;' and Dr. Johnson remarks, 'The *long sword* was the sword used in war, which was sometimes wielded with both hands.'

Is now got from his place of rife.

Ric. So near

The night, she could not wander far. Fair Viola!

Val. It is in vain to call; she sought a house,
Without all question.

Ric. Peace!—Fair Viola!

Fair Viola!—Who should have left her here

On such a ground? If you had meant to lose her,

You might have found there were no echoes here

To take her name³⁹, and carry it about,

When her true lover came to mourn for her,

'Till all the neighbouring vallies and the hills,

Refounded Viola; and such a place

You should have chose! You pity us

Because the dew a little wets our feet⁴⁰;

(Unworthy far to seek her, in the wet!)

And what becomes of her? where wander'd she,

With two showers raining on her, from her eyes

Continually, abundantly, from which

There's neither tree nor house to shelter her?—

Will you go with me to travel?

Val. Whither?

Ric. Over all the world.

Val. No, by my faith; I'll make a shorter journey

³⁹ — If you had meant to lose her,

You might have found there were no echoes here

To take her name.] Symphon reads,

— If you had meant to lose her,

You might have found where there no echoes were

To take her name;

but surely the old text conveys the same sense.

⁴⁰ You pity us because

The dew a little, &c.] These lines are so unworthy of our Authors, that I can hardly think 'em theirs; and I am sure the author of Jeronimo (whom our Poets, as well as Shakespeare and Jonson, abuse) might, when they quote in derision this line of his,

'Who calls Jeronimo from his naked bed?'

have justly retorted,

where wandred she,

With two showers raining on her, from her eyes

Continually, abundantly, from which

There's neither tree nor house to shelter her?

Symphon.

When

When I do travel.

Ric. But there is no hope
To gain my end in any shorter way.

Val. Why, what's your end?

Ric. It is to search the earth,
'Till we have found two in the shapes of men,
As wicked as ourselves.

Val. 'Twere not so hard
To find out those.

Ric. Why, if we find them out,
It were the better; for what brave villainy
Might we four do!—We would not keep together;
For every one has treachery enough
For twenty countries: One should trouble Asia;
Another should sow strife in Africa;
But you should play the knave at home in Europe
And for America let me alone.

Val. Sir, I am honest
Than you know how to be, and can no more
Be wrong'd, but I shall find myself a right.

Ric. If you had any spark of honesty,
You would not think that *honest* than I
Were a praise high enough to serve your turn;
If men were commonly so bad as I,
Thieves would be put in calendars for saints;
And bones of murd'ers would work miracles,
I am a kind of knave, of knave so much
There is betwixt me, and the vilest else—
But the next place of all to mine is yours.

Enter Viola, Nan, and Madge, with pails.

Val. That last is she; 'tis she!

Ric. Let us away;
We shall infect her! let her have the wind,
And we will kneel down here.

Viola. Wenches, away!
For here are men.

Val. Fair maid, I pray you stay, [*Takes hold of Viola.*

Viola. Alas! again?

Ric.

Ric. Why do you lay hold on her?

I pray heartily, let her go.

Val. With all my heart; I do not mean to hurt her.

Ric. But stand away then! for the purest bodies
Will soonest take infection; stand away!

But for infecting her myself, by Heav'n,
I would come there, and beat thee further off.

Viola. I know that voice and face.

Val. You're finely mad!

God b'w'ye, Sir! Now you are here together,
I'll leave you so; God send you good luck, both!
When you are soberer you'll give me thanks. [*Exit.*

Madge. Wilt thou go milk? Come.

Nan. Why dost not come?

Madge. She nods, she's asleep.

Nan. What, wert up so early?

Madge. I think yon

Man's mad to kneel there. Nay, come, come away.
Uds body, Nan, help! she looks black i'th' face;
She's in a swoon.

Nan. An you be a man, come hither,
And help a woman!

Ric. Come hither? You are a fool.

Nan. And you a knave and a beast, that you are.

Ric. Come hither? 'twas my being now so near
That made her swoon; and you are wicked people,
Or you would do so too: My venom eyes
Strike innocency dead at such a distance;
Here I will kneel, for this is out of distance.

Nan. Thou'rt a prating ass! there's no goodness in thee,
I warrant. How dost thou? [*Viola recovers.*

Viola. Why, well.

Madge. Art thou able to go?

Viola. No; pray go you and milk: If I be able
To come, I'll follow you; if not, I'll sit here
'Till you come back.

Nan. I'm loth to leave thee here with yon wild fool.

Viola. I know him well; I warrant thee he'll not
hurt me.

Madge. Come then, Nan. [*Exeunt maids.*]

Ric. How do you? Be not fearful, for I hold
My hands before my mouth, and speak, and so
My breath can never blast you.

Viola. 'Twas enough
To use me ill, tho' you had never fought me
To mock me too: Why kneel you so far off?
Were not that gesture better us'd in prayer?
Had I dealt so with you, I should not sleep,
'Till Heav'n and you had both forgiven me.

Ric. I do not mock; nor lives there such a villain
That can do any thing contemptible
To you: But I do kneel, because it is
An action very fit and reverent,
In presence of so pure a creature;
And so far off, as fearful to offend
One too much wrong'd already.

Viola. You
Confess you did the fault, yet scorn to come
So far as hither, to ask pardon for't;
Which I could willingly afford to come
To you to grant. Good Sir, if you have
A better love, may you be blest'd together!
She shall not wish you better than I will.
I but offend you! There are all the jewels
I stole; and all the love I ever had
I leave behind with you; I'll carry none
To give another: May the next maid you try
Love you no worse, nor be no worse than I!

Ric. Do not leave me yet, for all my fault!
Search out the next things to impossible,
And put me on them; when they are effected,
I may with better modesty receive
Forgiveness from you.

Viola. I will set no penance,
To gain the great forgiveness you desire,
But to come hither, and take me and it;
Or else, I'll come and beg, so you will grant
That you will be content to be forgiven!

Ric.

Ric. Nay, I will come, since you will have it so,
And, since you please to pardon me, I hope
Free from infection. Here I am by you,
A careless man, a breaker of my faith,
A loathsome drunkard ; and in that wild fury,
A hunter after whores ! I do beseech you
To pardon all these faults, and take me up
An honest, sober, and a faithful man !

Viola. For Heav'n's sake, urge your faults no more,
but mend !

All the forgiveness I can make you, is,
To love you ; which I will do, and desire
Nothing but love again ; which if I have not
Yet I will love you still.

Ric. Oh, women ! that some one of you will take
An everlasting pen into your hands,
And grave in paper (which the writ shall make
More lasting than the marble monuments)
Your matchless virtues to posterities ;
Which the defective race of envious man
Strives to conceal !

Viola. Methinks I would not now, for any thing,
But you had mis'd me : I have made a story
Will serve to waste many a winter's fire,
When we are old : I'll tell my daughters then
The miseries their mother had in love,
And say, My girls, be wiser ! yet I would not
Have had more wit myself. Take up those jewels,
For I think I hear my fellows coming.

Enter Madge and Nan with their pails.

Madge. How dost thou now ?

Viola. Why, very well, I thank you. It is late ;
Shall I haste home ?

Nan. I prithee ! we shall be shent⁴¹
Soundly.

⁴¹ *Shent.*] This word occurs in *Hamlet*, and Mr. Steevens says,
' To shent is to treat with injurious language.'

Madge.

Madge. Why does that railing man go with us?

Viola. I prithee, speak well of him: On my word,
He is an honest man!

Nan. There was never any so
On his complexion. A gentleman?
I'd be asham'd to have such a foul mouth. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Mother, Alexander, Andrugio, and Rowland.

Mother. How now, Alexander? What gentleman
is this?

Alex. Indeed, forsooth, I know not;
I found him at the market, full of woe,
Crying a lost daughter, and telling all
Her tokens to the people; and, what you wot?
By all description in the world⁴², it should be
Our new maid Melvia; (one would little think it!)
Therefore I was bold to tell him of her, mistress.

Mother. Melvia? it cannot be, fool! Alas,
You know she is a poor wench, and
I took her in upon mere charity.

Andr. So seem'd my daughter when she went away,
As she had made herself.

Mother. What stature was your child of, Sir?

Andr. Not high, and of a brown complexion,
Her hair auburn, a round face, which some friends,
That flatter'd me, would say 'twould be a good one.

Alex. This is still Melvia, mistress; that's the truth
on't!

Mother. It may be so, I'll promise you.

Alex. Well, go thy ways, the flower of our town!
For a hand and a foot I shall ne'er see thy fellow.

Mother. But had she not such toys as bracelets, rings,
and jewels?

Andr. She was something bold indeed, to take such
things

⁴² By all subscription in the world] If Alexander was an affecter
of hard words, I should be inclined to let this stand; but as he seems
throughout a sensible good-natured fellow, I would choose to read,
description.

That night she left me.

Mother. Then belike she run away?

Andr. Tho' she be one I love, I dare not lie;
She did indeed.

Mother. What think you of this jewel?

Andr. Yes, this was one of them, and this was mine;
You've made me a new man! I thank you for it.

Mother. Nay,

An she be given to filching, there's your jewel;
I am clear on't. But, by your leave, Sir, you
Shall answer me for what is lost since she
Came hither; I can tell you there lie things
Scattering in every place about the house.

Alex. As I am virtuous, I have the lyingst
Old gentlewoman to my mistress, and the most
malicious—

The devil a good word will she give a servant;
That's her old rule! and, God be thanked, they will
Give her as few; there's perfect love on both sides.
It yearns my heart to hear the wench misconstrued;
A careful soul she is, I'll be sworn for her;
And when she's gone, let them say what they will,
They may cast their caps at such another.

Andr. What you have lost by her, with all my heart
I'll see you double paid for; you have sav'd,
With your kind pity, two that must not live,
Unless it be to thank you. Take this jewel;
This strikes off none of her offences, mistress⁴³.
'Would I might see her!

Mother. Alexander, run,
And bid her make haste home; she's at the milking-
close:
But tell her not by any means who's here;
I know she'll be too fearful.

⁴³ *This strikes off none of her offences.*] Symphon, totally mistaking Andrugio's meaning, says, 'Why then he paid his jewel for nothing;' and reads,

This strikes off one of her offences, mistress.

It did not occur to him, that the jewel was meant as a gift, not as a payment.

236 THE COXCOMB.

Alex. Well, we'll have
A posset yet at parting, that's my comfort ;
And one round too, or else I'll lose my will. [*Exit.*

Andr. You shall find Silvio, Uberto, and Pedro,
Enquiring for the wench at the next town :
Tell them she's found, and where I am, and, with
The favour of this gentlewoman, desire them
To come hither.

Mother. I pray do ; they shall be all welcome.

[*Exit Rowland.*

Enter Justice, Curio, and Mark.

Just. By your leave, forsooth ! you shall see me find
The parties by a sleight.

Mother. Who's that ? Mr. Justice ?
How do you, Sir ?

Just. Why, very well, and busy.
Where's your son ?

Mother. He's within, Sir.

Just. Hum ; and how does
The young woman my cousin, that came down with
him ?

Mother. She's above ; as a woman in her case may be.

Just. You have confess'd it ?
Then, firrah, call in the officers ! she's no cousin of mine ;
A mere trick to discover all !

Mother. To discover ? what ?

Enter Mark and Officers.

Just. You shall know that anon : I think I have
Over-reach'd you ! Oh, welcome ! Enter the house,
And by virtue of my warrant, which you have there,
Seize upon the bodily persons of those whose names
Are there written ; to wit, one Mercury, and the wife
Of one Antonio.

Mother. For what ?

Just. Away, I say !
This gentleman shall certify you for what. [*Exe. Offi.*
Mother. He can accuse my son of nothing ;

He

He came from travel but within these two days.

Just. There hangs a tale.

Mother. I should be sorry this should

Fall out at any time, but especially now.

Sir, will you favour me so much as to let me know
Of what you accuse him?

Curio. Upon suspicion of murder.

Mother. Murder? I defy thee!

Curio. I pray God he may

Prove himself innocent.

Just. Fy, say not so!

You shew yourself to be no good commonwealth's man,
For the more are hang'd the better 'tis for the com-
monwealth.

Mother. By this rule you were best hang yourself.

Just. I forgive your honest mirth ever.

Enter Mark and officers, with Mercury and Maria.

Oh, welcome, welcome, Mark!

Your pen, ink, and paper, to take their examinations.

Merc. Why do you pull me so? I'll go alone.

Just. Let them stand,

Let them stand quietly, whilst they're examin'd.

Maria. What will you examine us of?

Just. Of Antonio's murder.

Merc. Why, he was my friend.

Maria. He was my husband.

Just. The more shame for you both! Mark, your
pen and ink.

Mother. Pray God all be well! I never knew

Any of these travellers come to good. I beseech you,
Sir,

Be favourable to my son.

Just. Gentlewoman,

Hold you content; I would it were come to that!

Merc. For God's sake, mother,

Why kneel you to such a pig-brib'd fellow?

H'has surfeited of geese, and they have put him
Into a fit of justice: Let him do his worst!

Just.

Just. Is your paper ready?

Mark. I am ready, Sir.

Enter Antonio.

Just. Accuse them, Sir; I command thee to lay down
Accusations against these persons, in behalf
Of the state: And first look upon the parties
To be accus'd, and deliver your name.

Curio. My name is Curio; my murder'd kinsman,
If he were living now, I should not know him,
It is so long since we saw one another.

Ant. My cousin Curio?

Curio. But thus much (from the mouths
Of his servants and others, whose examinations I have
In writing about me) I can accuse them of:
This Mercury, the last night but this last,
Lay in Antonio's house, and in the night
He rose, raising Antonio, where privately
They were in talk an hour, to what end I know not;
But of likelihood, finding Antonio's house
Not a fit place to murder him in, he suffer'd him
To go to bed again; but in the morning
Early he train'd him I think forth; after which time
He never saw his home. His cloaths were found
Near the place where Mercury was, and the people
At first denied they saw him; but at last
They made a frivoloustale, that there he shifted himself
Into a footman's habit: But in short,
The next hour this woman went to Mercury,
And in her coach they posted hither. True accusations
I have no more, and I will make none.

Just. No more?

We need no more. Sirrah, be drawing
Their mittimus, before we hear their answer.
What say you, Sir? are you guilty of this murder?

Merc. No, Sir.

Just. Whether you are or no, confess;
It will be the better for you.

Merc. If I were

Guilty,

Guilty, your rhetoric could not fetch it forth.
But tho' I am innocent, I confess, that if I
Were a stander-by, these circumstances urg'd,
Which are true, would make me doubtless believe
The accused parties to be guilty.

Just. Write down,
That he being a stander-by (for so you see he is)
Doth doubtless believe the accused parties,
Which is himself, to be guilty.

Merc. I say no such thing.

Just. Write it down, I say; we'll try that.

Merc. I care not what you write.—

Pray God you did not kill him for my love! [*Apart.*
Tho' I am free from this, we both deserve—

Maria. Govern your tongue, I pray you! all is well;
My husband lives, I know it, and I see him.

Just. They whisper! sever them quickly, I say.
Officers, why do you let them prompt one another?
Gentlewoman, what say you to this?
Are not you guilty?

Maria. No, as I hope for mercy.

Just. But are not those circumstances true, that this
Gentleman hath so shortly and methodically deliver'd?

Maria. They are; and what you do with me I care not,
Since he is dead in whom was all my care.
You knew him not?

Just. No, and't been better
For you too, an you had never known him.

Maria. Why then, you did not know the world's
chief joy:

His face so manly as it had been made
To fright the world; yet he so sweetly-temper'd,
That he would make himself a natural fool,
To do a noble kindness for a friend.
He was a man whose name I'll not out-live,
Longer than Heav'n, whose will must be obey'd,
Will have me do.

Ant. And I will quit thy kindness. [*Aside.*

Just. Before me, she has made the tears

Stand

Stand in mine eyes; but I must be austere.
Gentlewoman, you must confess this murder.

Maria. I cannot, Sir; I did it not. But I desire to see
Those examinations which this gentleman
Acknowledges to have about him, for
But late last night I receiv'd letters from
The city; yet I heard of no confession, then.

Just. You shall see them time enough, I warrant you.
But letters you say you had; where are those letters?

Maria. Sir, they are gone.

Just. Gone? whither are they gone?
How have you dispos'd of 'em?

Maria. Why, Sir,
They are for womens' matters, and so I use 'em.

Just. Who writ 'em?

Maria. A man of mine.

Just. Who brought 'em?

Maria. A post.

Just. A post? there was some great haste sure: Ha, ha!
Where is that post?

Maria. Sir, there he stands.

Just. Does he so?
Bring hither that post! I am afraid that post
Will prove a knave. Come hither, post! What,
What can you say concerning the murder of Antonio?

Ant. What's that to you?

Just. Oh, post, you have no answer ready, have you?
I'll have one from you.

Ant. You shall have no more
From me than you have. You examine an honest
Gentleman and gentlewoman here. 'Tis pity
Such fools as you should be i'th' commission.

Just. Say you so, post? take away that post! whip him,
And bring him again quickly. I'll hamper you, post.

Merc. 'Tis Antonio; I know him now as well—
What an irregular fool is this!

Ant. Whip me? hold off!

Maria. Oh, good Sir, whip him! By his murmuring
He should know something of my husband's death,
That may quit me: For God's sake, fetch it out!

Just.

Just. Whip him, I say! [*Ant. throws off his disguise.*]

Ant. Who is't dares whip me now?

Maria. Oh, my lov'd husband!

Merc. My most worthy friend!

Where have you been so long?

Ant. I cannot speak for joy!

Just. Why, what's the matter now? and shall not Law then have her course?

Andr. It shall have no other course Than it has, I think.

Just. It shall have other course Before I go, or I'll beat my brains: And I say It was not honestly done of him to discover Himself before the parties accus'd were executed, That law might have had her course; for then The kingdom flourishes.

Ant. But such a wife as thou had never any man; And such a friend as he, believe me, wife, Shall never be! Good wife, love my friend; Friend, love my wife. Hark, friend!

Just. Mark,
If we can have nothing to do, you shall swear The peace of somebody.

Mark. Yes, Sir.

Ant. By my troth,
I'm sorry my wife is so obstinate:
Sooth, if I could yet do thee any good,
I would; i'faith I would.

Merc. I thank you, Sir;
I've lost that passion.

Ant. Cousin Curio,
You and I must be better acquainted.

Curio. It is my wish, Sir.

Ant. I should not have known you neither, 'tis so long Since we saw each other; we were but children then: But you have shew'd yourself an honest man to me.

Curio. I would be ever so.

Enter Ricardo and Viola.

Mother. Look you! who's there?

Andr. Say nothing to me; for
Thy peace is made.

Ric. Sir, I can nothing say,
But that you are her father; you can both
Not only pardon, when you have a wrong,
But love where you've receiv'd most injury.

Just. I think I shall hear of no hanging this year!
There's a Tinker and a whore yet, the cryer said,
That robb'd her, and are in prison; I hope
They shall be hang'd.

Andr. No, truly, Sir, they have broke prison.

Just. 'Tis no matter; then the jailor shall be hang'd.

Andr. You are deceiv'd in that too, Sir; 'twas known
To be against his will, and he hath got
His pardon; I think, for nothing;
But if't doth cost him any thing, I'll pay it.

Just. Mark, up with your papers; away!

Merc. Oh,
You shall stay dinner; I've a couple of brawling
Neighbours, that I'll assure you won't agree,
And you shall have the hearing of their matter.

Just. With all my heart.

Merc. Go, gentlemen, go in.

Ric. Oh, Viola, that no succeeding age
Might lose the memory of what thou wert!
But such an overswayed sex is yours,
That all the virtuous actions you can do
Are but as men will call them: And I swear,
'Tis my belief, that women want but ways
To praise their deeds, but men want deeds to praise.

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

E P I L O G U E.

THIS ended; but my hopes and fears begin:
Nor can it be imputed as a sin
In me to wish it favour. If this night
To the judicious it hath giv'n delight,
I have my ends: And may such, for their grace
Vouchsaf'd to this, find theirs in every place!

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

A C O M E D Y.

This Play is ascribed to Fletcher by the Commendatory Verses of Gardiner; the Epilogue, however, speaks of it as the production of both Authors. The first publication of it was in the folio of 1647. It was brought on the stage, altered by Colley Cibber, about the beginning of the present century, under the title of the Rival Fools, but without any success.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Sir Perfidious Oldcraft, *an old knight, a great admirer of wit.*

Wittypate Oldcraft, *his son, an accomplished gentleman.*

Sir Gregory Fop, *a witlefs lord of land.*

Cunningham, *a discreet gentleman, Sir Gregory's comrade and supplanter.*

Sir Ruinous Gentry, *a decay'd knight,* } *two sharking*
Priscian, *a poor scholar,* } *companions.*

Pompey Doodle, *a clown, Sir Gregory's man, a piece of puff-paste, like his master.*

Mr. Credulous, *nephew to Sir Perfidious, a shallow-brain'd scholar.*

W O M E N.

Niece to Sir Perfidious, *a rich and witty heir.*

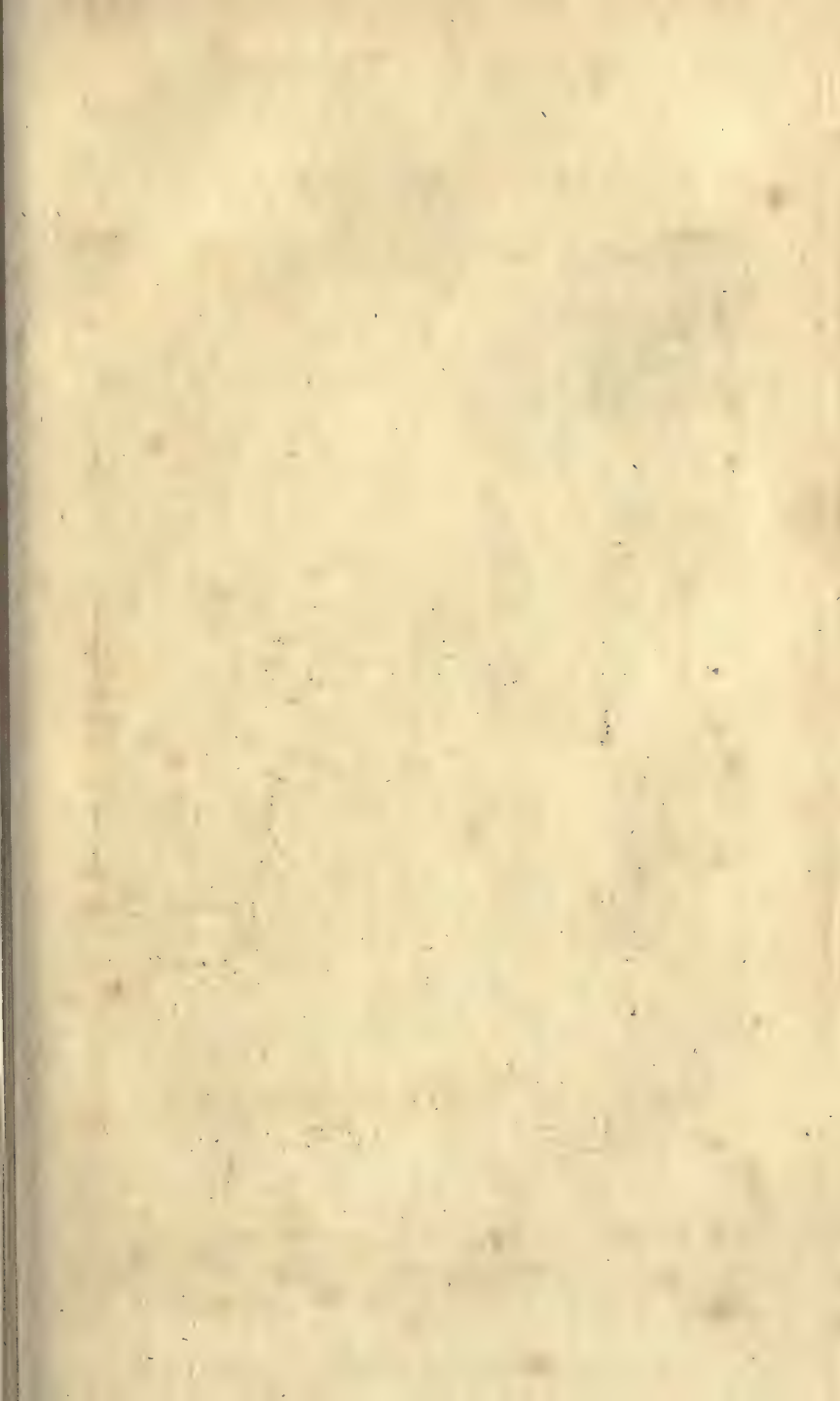
Lady Ruinous, *wife to Sir Ruinous.*

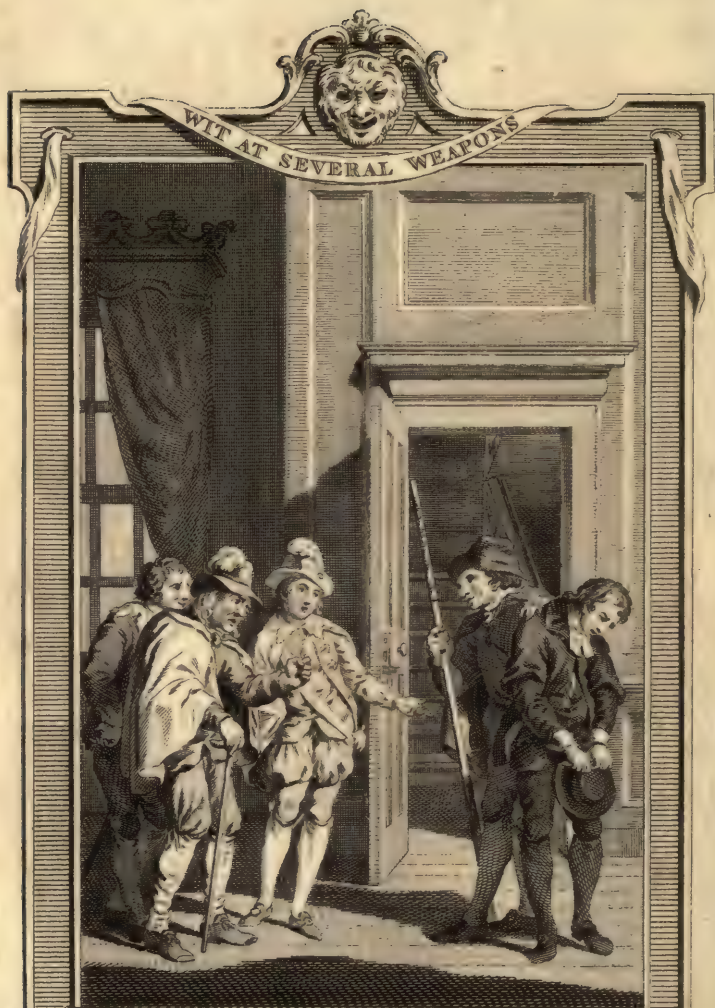
Guardianefs to Sir Perfidious's Niece, *an old doting crone.*

Mirabell, *the Guardianefs's niece.*

SCENE, L O N D O N.

T H E





L. Ruin. *Hang one of 'em I will certain (I ha' swore it)*
And 'twas my luck to light upon this first.
 Oldc. *A Cambridge man for this? these your degrees, Sir?*
Nine years at university for this fello' ship? Act IV.

M. A. Rooker inv.

C. Grignion sc.

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

A C T I.

Enter Sir Perfidious Oldcraft and Wittypate.

Witty. **S**IR, I'm no boy; I'm deep in one and twenty;
The second year's approaching.

Oldc. A fine time for
A youth to live by his wits then, I should think,
If e'er he mean to make account of any.

Witty. Wits, Sir?

Oldc. Ay, wits, Sir; if it be so strange to thee,
I'm sorry I spent that time to get a fool,
I might have employ'd my pains a great deal better:
Thou know'st all that I have I ha' got by my wits.
And yet to see how urgent thou art too!
It grieves me thou art so degenerate
To trouble me for means; I never offer'd it
My parents from a school-boy; past nineteen once,
(See what these times are grown to) before twenty
I rush'd into the world, which is indeed much like
The art of swimming, he that will attain to't
Must fall plump, and duck himself at first,
And that will make him hardy and advent'rous;
And not stand putting in one foot, and shiver,
And then draw t'other after, like a quake-buttock;
Well he may make a padler in the world,
From hand to mouth, but never a brave swimmer,
Borne up by th' chin, as I bore up myself,

With my strong industry that never fail'd me ;
For he that lies borne up with patrimonies,
Looks like a long great ass that swims with bladders :
Come but one prick of adverse fortune to him,
He sinks, because he never tried to swim,
When Wit plays with the billows that choak'd him. ♪

Witty. Why, is it not a fashion for a father, Sir,
Out of his yearly thousands to allow
His only son a competent brace of hundreds,
Or such a toy?

Oldc. Yes; if he mean to spoil him,
Or mar his wits, he may, but never I.
This is my humour, Sir, which you'll find constant;
I love wit so well, because I liv'd by't, that I'll
Give no man power out of my means to hurt it,
And that's a kind of gratitude to my raiser,
Which great ones often forget. I admire much
This age's dullness! When I scarce writ man,
The first degree that e'er I took in thriving,
I lay intelligencer close for wenching,
Could give this lord or knight a true certificate
Of all the maidenheads extant; how many lay
'mongst chambermaids, how many 'mongst exchange-
wenches

(Tho' never many there, I must confess,
They have a trick to utter ware so fast);
I knew which lady had a mind to fall,
Which gentlewoman new divorc'd, which tradesman
breaking,

The price of every finner to a hair,
And where to raise each price; which were the terms
That would give velvet petticoats, tiffue gowns,
Which pieces, angels, suppers, and half-crowns:
I knew how to match, and make my market;
Could give intelligence where the pox lay lege,
And then to see the lechers shift a point
'Twas sport and profit too; how they would shun
Their ador'd mistrefs' chambers, and run fearfully,
Like rats from burning houses; so brought I

My

My clients o' the game still safe together,
 And noble gamesters lov'd me, and I felt it.
 Give me a man that lives by his wits, say I,
 And's never left a groat! there's the true gallant.
 When I grew somewhat purfy, I grew then
 In mens' opinions too, and confidences;
 They put things call'd executorships upon me,
 The charge of orphans, little senseless creatures,
 Whom in their childhoods I bound forth to feltmakers,
 To make 'em lose, and work away their gentry,
 Disguise their tender natures with hard custom,
 So wrought 'em out in time; there I rose ungently.
 Nor do I fear to discourse this unto thee;
 I'm arm'd at all points against treachery,
 I hold my humour firm; if I can see thee thrive by
 Thy wits while I live, I shall have the more courage
 To trust thee with my lands when I die; if not,
 The next best wit I can hear of, carries 'em:
 For since in my time and knowledge so many rich
 children

Of the city conclude in beggary, I'd rather
 Make a wise stranger my executör
 Than a foolish son my heir, and have my lands call'd
 after

My wit than after my name; and that's my nature.

Witty. 'Tis a strange harsh one! Must I still shift then?
 I come, brave cheats! once to my trade again!
 And I'll ply't harder now than e'er I did for't'.
 You'll part with nothing then, Sir?

Oldc. Not a jot, Sir.

Witty. If I should ask you blessing ere I go, Sir,
 I think you would not give't me.

Oldc. Let me but hear thou liv'st by thy wits once,
 Thou shalt have any thing; thou'rt none of mine else!
 Then why should I take care for thee?

Witty. Thank your bounty! [Exit.

Oldc. So wealth love me, and long life, I beseech it,

* *Than e'er I did for't.*] Sympton read,

Than e'er I did before.

248 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

As I do love the man that lives by his wits,
 He comes so near my nature ! I'm grown old now,
 And even arriv'd at my last cheat, I fear me ;
 But 'twill make shift to bury me, by day-light too,
 And discharge all my legacies, 'tis so wealthy,
 And never trouble any interest money.
 I've yet a niece to wed, over whose steps
 I have plac'd a trusty watchful Guardianess,
 For fear some poor earl steal her ('thas been threaten'd)
 To redeem mortgag'd land, but he shall miss on't ;
 To prevent which, I have sought out a match for her,
 Fop of Fop-Hall he writes himself, (I take it,
 The ancient'st Fop in England) with whom I've pri-
 vately
 Compounded for the third part of her portion,

Enter Sir Gregory Fop and Cunningham.

And she seems pleas'd; so two parts rest with me.—
 He's come. Sir Gregory, welcome ! What's he, Sir?

Greg. Young Cunningham, a Norfolk gentleman,
 One that has liv'd upon the Fops, my kindred,
 Ever since my remembrance. He's a wit indeed,
 And we all strive to have him; nay, 'tis certain
 Some of our name has gone to law for him.
 Now 'tis my turn to keep him; and indeed
 He's plaguy chargeable, as all your wits are :
 But I will give him over when I list ;
 I ha' us'd wits so before.

Oldc. I hope when you're married, Sir,
 You'll shake him off.

Greg. Why, what do you take me to be,
 Old father-i'-law that shall be² ? Do you think

² *Old father-i'-law that shall be.*] But that 'tis plain he never could be. The mistaking of one letter for another is very usual; but here the Editor has made a greater slip, and has changed one word for another. *Uncle-in-law* is what Sir Gregory designs to call him. So in this act a little lower, the old Knight says to Sir Gregory,

Tuss. Nephew, I'll call you so,——

And in act the third Sir Gregory says to him,

It's as fine a noise, Uncle, as heart can wish. *Sampson.*

We believe the text genuine, and the slip perhaps intentional

I'll have any of the wits hang upon me after I am married once?

None of my kindred ever had before me.

But where's this Niece? Is it a fashion

In London to marry a woman, and never see her?

Oldc. Excuse the niceness, Sir! that care's your friend; Perhaps, had she been seen, you had never seen her: There's many a *spent thing*, call'd *An't like your honour*, That lies in wait for her: At first snap she's a countess, Drawn with six mares thro' Fleet-Street, and a coachman,

Sitting bareheaded to their Flanders buttocks.—

This whets him on.

Greg. Pray let's clap up the business, Sir!

I long to see her. Are you sure you have her?

Is she not there already? Hark, hark, oh, hark!

Oldc. How now? what's that, Sir?

Greg. Every caroch goes by,
Goes ev'n to th' heart of me.

Oldc. I'll have that doubt eas'd, Sir,
Instantly eas'd, Sir Gregory: And, now I think on't,
A toy comes i' my mind, seeing your friend there;
We'll have a little sport, give you but way to't,
And put a trick upon her; I love wit precious! You shall not be seen yet; we'll stale your friend first, If't please but him to stand for th' anti-masque³.

Greg. Pho, he shall stand for any thing (why his supper Lies i' my breeches here); I'll make him fast else.

Oldc. Then come you forth more unexpectedly,
The masque itself, a thousand a-year jointure:
The cloud, your friend, will be then drawn away,
And only you the beauty of the play.

Greg. For red and black, I'll put down all your fullers;
Let but your Niece bring white, and we have three colours.

[Exit *Greg.*

Oldc. I'm given to understand you are a wit, Sir.

Cunn. I'm one that fortune shews small favor to, Sir.

³ *Antimasque.*] This, I believe, properly means a masque of antics.

250 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Oldc. Why, there you conclude it, whether you will or no, Sir.

To tell you truth, I'm taken with a wit.

Cunn. Fowlers catch woodcocks so; let not them know so much!

Oldc. A pestilence mazard! a duke Humphrey spark, H' had rather lose his dinner than his jest!—

I say, I love a wit the best of all things.

Cunn. Always except yourself.

Oldc. H' has giv'n't me twice now

Enter Niece and Guardianess.

All with a breath, I thank him! But that I love a wit, I should be heartily angry. Cuds, my Niece!

You know the business with her?

Cunn. With a woman?

'Tis ev'n the very same it was, I'm sure, Five thousand years ago, no fool can miss it.

Oldc. This is the gentleman I promis'd, Niece, To present to your affection.

Cunn. Ware that arrow!

Oldc. Deliver me the truth now of your liking.

Cunn. I'm spoil'd already; that such poor lean game Should be found out as I am!

Oldc. Go, set to her, Sir.—Ha, ha, ha!

Cunn. How noble is this virtue in you, lady! Your eye may seem to commit a thousand slaughters On your dull servants, which truly tasted Conclude all in comforts.

Oldc. Pho!

Niece. It rather shews What a true worth can make, such as yours is.

Oldc. And that's not worth a groat.—How like you him, Niece?

Niece. It shall appear how well, Sir: I humbly thank you for him.

Oldc. Ha, ha! good gullery! he does it well, i'faith. 'Slight, as if he meant to purchase Lip-land there; Hold, hold! bear off, I say!

'Slid,

'Slid, your part hangs too long.

Cunn. My joys are mockeries.

Niece. You've both exprefs'd a worthy care and love,
Sir:

Had mine own eye been fet at liberty
To make a publick choice (believe my truth, Sir)
It could not ha' done better for my heart
Than your good providence has.

Oldc. You will say so then!

Alas, sweet Niece, all this is but the scabbard;
Now I draw forth the weapon.

Niece. How!

Oldc. Sir Gregory!

Approach, thou lad of thousands!

Enter Sir Gregory,

Greg. Who calls me?

Niece. What motion's this? the model of Niniveh⁴?

Oldc. Accost her daintily now, let me advise thee!

Greg. I was advis'd to bestow dainty cost on you.

Niece. You were ill-advis'd; back, and take better
counsel!

You may have good for an angel: The least cost
You can bestow upon a woman, Sir,
Trebles ten counsellors' fees; in lady-ware,
You're over head and ears, ere you be aware.
Faith, keep a batchelor still, and go to bowls, Sir,
Follow your mistress there, and prick and save, Sir!
For other mistresses will make you a slave, Sir.

Greg. So, so! I have my lerrepoop already.

Oldc. Why, how now, Niece? this is the man, I
tell you!

Niece. He? hang him! Sir, I know you do but mock;
This is the man, you would say.

Oldc. The devil rides, I think!

⁴ *The model of Nineveh.*] The model of *Nineveh* appears to have been a puppet show in great repute in the time of our Authors. It is mentioned in the old comedy of *Every Woman in Her Humour*, 1609, quarto, signature H. 'I have seen the city of new *Nineveh*, and Julius Caesar, acted by mammals.' It is also taken notice of by Ben Jonson in his *Bartholemew-Fair*, act v. sc. i.

252 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Cunn. I must use cunning here.

Oldc. Make me not mad! use him with all respect!
This is the man, I swear.

Niece. 'Would you could persuade me to that!
- Alas, you cannot go beyond me, uncle:
You carry a jest well, I must confess,
For a man of your years; but——

Oldc. I'm wrought beside myself!

Cunn. [*to the Guardianess.*] I ne'er beheld
Comeliness 'till this minute.

Guard. Oh, good sweet Sir,
Pray offer not these words to an old gentlewoman!

Niece. Sir!

Cunn. Away, fifteen! here's fifty-one exceeds thee,

Niece. What's the business?

Cunn. Give me these motherly creatures! Come,
ne'er smother it;

I know you are a teeming woman yet.

Guard. Troth, a young gentleman might do much,
I think, Sir.

Cunn. Go to then.

Guard. And I should play my part, or I were
ingrateful.

Niece. Can you so soon neglect me?

Cunn. Hence! I'm busy.

Oldc. This cross point came in luckily. Impudent
baggage,

Hang from the gentleman! art thou not ashamed
To be a widow's hind'rance?

Cunn. Are you angry, Sir?

Oldc. You're welcome! pray court on: I shall desire
Your honest wife acquaintance. Vex me not,
After my care and pains to find a match for thee,
Lest I confine thy life to some out-chamber,
Where thou shalt waste the sweetness of thy youth,
Like a consuming light in her own socket,
And not allow'd a male-creature about thee!
A very monkey, thy necessity
Shall prize at a thousand pound; a chimney-sweeper

At

At fifteen hundred.

Niece. But are you serious, uncle?

Oldc. Serious.

Niece. Pray let me look upon the gentleman
With more heed! then I did but hum him over,
In haste, good faith, as lawyers chancery sheets.
Beswore my blood, a tolerable man,
Now I distinctly read him!

Greg. Hum, hum, hum!

Niece. Say he be black, he's of a very good pitch;
Well-ankled, two good confident calves, they look
As if they would not shrink at the ninth child;
The redness in the face—why, that's in fashion,
Most of your high bloods have it; 'tis a sign
Of greatness, marry;

'Tis to be taken down too with May-butter:
I'll send to my lady Spend-tail for her medicine.

Greg. Lum te dum, dum, dum, de dum!

Niece. He's qualified too, believe me.

Greg. Lum te dum, de dum, de dum!

Niece. Where was my judgment?

Greg. Lum te dum, dum, dum, te dum, te dum!

Niece. Perfection's cover'd mess.

Greg. Lum te dum, te dum, te dum!

Niece. It smokes apparently. Pardon, sweet Sir,
The error of my sex!

Oldc. Why, well said, Niece!

Upon submission, you must pardon her now, Sir.

Greg. I'll do it by course: Do you think I'm an
ass, knight?

Here's first my hand; now it goes to the seal-office.

Oldc. Formally finish'd! How goes this suit forward?

Cunn. I'm taking measure of the widow's mind, Sir;
I hope to fit her heart.

Guard. Who would have dreamt
Of a young morsel now? Things come in minutes!

Greg. Trust him not, widow; he's a younger
brother,

He'll swear and lie; believe me, he's worth nothing.

Guard.

Guard. He brings more content to a woman with
that nothing,
Than he that brings his thousands without any thing;
We have precedents for that amongst great ladies.

Oldc. Come, come! no language now shall be in
fashion
But your love-phraze, the bell to procreation. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Sir Ruinous Gentry, Wittypate, and Priscian.

Witty. Pox, there's nothing puts me besides my wits,
But this fourth, this lay illiterate share;
There's no conscience in't.

Ruin. Sir, it has ever been so
Where I have practis'd, and must be still where I am.
Nor has it been undeserv'd at the year's end,
And shuffle the almanack together, vacations
And term-times, one with another; tho' I say't,
My wife is a woman of a good spirit;
Then it is no lay-share.

Pris. Faith, for this five year,
Ego possum probare, I have had
A hungry penurious share with 'em,
And she has had as much as I always.

Witty. Present, or not present?

Pris. *Residens aut non residens, per fidem!*

Witty. And what precedent's this for me? because
Your *bic & hæc, turpis* and *qui mihi*
Discipulus brains (that never got any thing
But by accident and uncertainty)
Did allow it, therefore I must, that have grounded
Conclusions of wit, hereditary rules
From my father, to get by?

Ruin. Sir, be compendious;
Either take or refuse: I will 'bate no token
Of my wife's share; make even the last reckonings,
And either so unite, or here divide company.

Pris. A good resolution, *profecto!* let every man
Beg his own way, and happy man be his dole!

Witty. Well, here's your double share, and single
brains,

Pol,

Pol, ædipol, here's toward; a *castor ecastor* for you!
 I will endure it a fortnight longer, but
 By these just five ends——

Prif. Take heed! five's odd;
 Put both hands together or severally,
 They are all odd unjust ends.

Witty. Medius fidius, hold your tongue!
 I depose you from half a share presently else:
 I will make you a partíciple, and decline you; now
 You understand me! Be you a quiet conjunction
 Amongst the undeclined; you and your Latin
 Ends shall go shift, *solus cum solo*, together else;
 And then if ever they get ends of gold
 And silver, enough to serve that gerundine maw of
 yours,
 That without *do* will end in *di* and *dum* instantly——

Enter Oldcraft and Sir Gregory.

Ruin. Enough, enough! Here comes company!
 we lose

Five shares in wrangling about one.

Witty. My father? Put on, *Priscian*!
 He has Latin fragments too; but I fear him not!
 I'll case my face with a little more hair, and relieve.

Oldc. Tush, nephew! I'll call you so, for if there be
 No other obstacles than those you speak of,
 They are but powder charges without pellets;
 You may safely front 'em, and warrant your own danger.

Greg. No other that I can perceive, i'faith, Sir:
 For I put her to't, and felt her as far as I could;
 And the strongest repulse was, she said,
 She would have a little soldier in me,
 That, if need were, I should defend her reputation.

Oldc. And surely, Sir, that is a principle
 Amongst your principal ladies: They require valour
 Either in a friend or a husband.

Greg. And I allow
 Their requests i'faith, as well as any woman's
 Heart can desire: If I knew where to get

Valour,

256 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Valour, I would as willingly entertain it
As any man that blows.

Oldc. Breathes, breathes, Sir; that's the sweeter
phrase.

Greg. Blows for a soldier, i'faith, Sir! and I'm in
Practice that way.

Oldc. For a soldier, I grant it.

Greg. 'Slid!

I'll swallow some bullets, and good round ones too,
But I'll have a little soldier in me.

Ruin. Will you on and beg,
Or steal and be hang'd?

Greg. And some scholar she would have me besides.

Oldc. Tush, that shall be no bar⁵; it is a quality
In a gentleman, but of the least question.

Pris. *Salvete, domini benignissimi, munificentissimi!*

Oldc. *Salvete dicis ad nos? jubeo te salvere!*

Nay, Sir, we have Latin, and other metal in us too, Sir.
You shall see me talk with this fellow now.

Greg. I could find in my heart, to talk with him too,
If I could understand him.

Pris. *Charissimi*⁶,

Doctissimique, domini, ex abundantia

Charitatis vestræ estote propitii in me juvenem

Miserum, pauperem, & omni consolatione exulem!

Oldc. A pretty scholar, by my faith, Sir! but I'll
to him again.

⁵ *Greg.* And some scholar she would have me besides,

Tush, that shall be no bar, &c.] The impropriety of making
Sir Gregory both tell the tale and give the answer, inclined me to prefix
Oldcraft before *Tush, that shall. &c.* *Sympson.*

⁶ *Pris.* *Charissimi, doctissimique, Domini, ex abundantia*

Charitatis vestræ estote propitii in me jejunum

Miserum.] Clarissimi I prefer to *charissimi.* *Jejunum* too

I can by no means approve, tho' sent, because it is only an arbitrary
reading of the Editor of the copy of 1679. That of 1647, repre-
sents the passage thus; *estote propitii in me juvenem*, which, tho' not
sense, because not Latin, will yet be the hand-maid to lead us to what
might very possibly have been the original reading; and that with no
more trouble than turning of an *n* into a *u*, — *propitii in me juvenem.*

Sympson.

Greg.

Greg. Does he beg or steal in this language, can you tell, Sir?

He may take away my good name from me,
And I ne'er the wiser.

Oldc. He begs, he begs, Sir.

Pris. *Ecce, ecce, in oculis lachrymarum flumen! in ore Fames sitisque; ignis in vultu, pudor & impudentia; In omni parte necessitas & indigentia.*

Oldc. *Audi tu bonus socius; tu es scholasticus, sic intelligo,*

Ego faciam argumentum.

Mark now, Sir, now I fetch him up!

Greg. I've been fetch'd up a hundred times for this;
Yet I could never learn half so much.

Oldc. *Audi, & responde; hoc est argumentum: Nomen est Nomen—ergo, quod est tibi nomen? Responde nunc, Responde argumentum meum.*

Have I not put him to't, Sir?

Greg. Yes, Sir, I think so.

Witty. Step in! the rascal is put out of his penn'd speech,

And he can go no further.

Oldc. *Cur non respondes?*

Pris. *O domine, tanta mea est miseria—*

Witty. So! he's almost in again.

Pris. *Ut nocte mecum pernoctet egestas, luce quotidie Paupertas habitat.*

Oldc. *Sed quod est tibi nomen? & quis dedit? responde Argumentum.*

Pris. Hem, hem!

Witty. He's dry; he hems: On quickly!

Ruin. Courteous gentlemen,

If the brow of a military face may not be offensive
To your generous eye-balls, let his wounds speak
better than his words,

For some branch or small sprig of charity to be planted
Upon this poor barren soil of a foldier.

Oldc. How now! what, arms and arts both go a-begging?

258 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Ruin. Such is the post-progress of cold charity now-
a-days,
Who (for heat to her frigid limbs) passes in so swift
a motion

That two at the least had need be to stay her.

Greg. Sir, let's reward 'em, I pray you; and be gone!
If any quarrel should arise amongst us,
I am able to answer neither of them; his iron
And steel tongue is as hard as t'other's Latin one.

Oldc. Stay, stay, Sir! I will talk a little with him first:
Let me alone with both! I will try whether they
Live by their wits or no; for such a man I love.—
And, what, you both beg together then?

Pris. *Conjunctis manibus, profecto, domine.*

Ruin. With equal fortunes, equal distribution;
There's not the breadth of a sword's point uneven
In our division.

Greg. What two qualities
Are here cast away upon two poor fellows!
If a man had 'em that could maintain 'em, what
A double man were that! If these two fellows
Might be bought and sodden, and boil'd to a jelly,
And eaten fasting every morning, I do not
Think but a man should find strange things in his
stomach.

Oldc. Come, Sir, join your charity with mine,
And we'll make up a couple of pence betwixt us.

Greg. If a man could have a pennyworth for his penny,
I would bestow more money with 'em.

Witty. Save you, gentlemen! How now?
What, are you encounter'd here? What fellows are these?

Oldc. Faith, Sir, here's Mars and Mercury; a pair
Of poor planets, it seems, that Jupiter
Has turn'd out to live by their wits, and we are e'en
About a little spark of charity
To kindle 'em a new fire.

Witty. Stay, pray you stay, Sir!
You may abuse your charity, nay, make
That goodness in you no better than a vice:

So

So many deceivers walk in these shadows now-a-days,
That certainly your bounties were better spilt,
Than reserv'd to so lewd and vicious uses.—
Which is he that professes the soldier?

Ruin. He that professes his own profession, Sir,
And the dangerous life he hath led in it
This pair of half-score years.

Witty. In what services have you been, Sir?

Ruin. The first that flesh'd me a soldier, Sir,
Was that great battle at Alcazar in Barbary,
Where the noble English Stukeley fell⁷, and where
That royal Portugal Sebastian ended
His untimely days.

Witty. Are you sure Sebastian died there?

Ruin. Faith, Sir, there was some other rumour hop'd
Amongst us⁸, that he, wounded, escap'd, and touch'd
On his native shore again; where finding his country
at home

More distress'd by the invasion of the Spaniard,
Than his loss abroad, forsook it, still supporting
A miserable and unfortunate life,
Which where he ended is yet uncertain.

Witty. By my faith, Sir,
He speaks the nearest fame of truth in this.

Ruin. Since, Sir, I serv'd in France, the Low Countries,
Lastly, at that memorable skirmish at Newport⁹,

⁷ *The great battle at Alcazar in Barbary, where the noble English Stukeley fell, and where that royal Portugal Sebastian, &c.*] The battle of Alcazar was fought in August, 1578. Don Sebastian, one of the kings who fell in that engagement, being not found after the battle, was for a long time supposed to have escaped, and reported to be living in several different countries.—Of Stukeley, who appears to have been a dissolute Englishman, born in Devonshire, a volunteer in that battle, after having dissipated his property, an account may be seen in an old ballad published in Evans's collection, 1777, vol. ii. p. 103. See also an old play, entitled, *The Battle of Alcazar*, with the death of captain Stukeley, 4to. 1594. R.

⁸ Hop't amongst us.] Theobald and Seward would read, HOP'T amongst us.

⁹ *That memorable skirmish, &c.*] This memorable skirmish at Newport happened on the 22d of July, 1600, between prince Albert and prince Maurice de Nassau; the former commander of the Spaniards,

260 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Where the forward and bold Scot there spent his life
So freely, that from every single heart
That there fell, came home, from his resolution,
A double honour to his country.

Witty. This
Should be no counterfeit, Sir.

Oldc. I do not think he is, Sir.

Witty. But, Sir, methinks you do not shew the marks
Of a foldier : Could you so freely scape,
That you brought home no scars to be your chronicle ?

Ruin. Sir, I have wounds, and many ; but in those
parts

Where nature and humanity bids me shame
To publish.

Witty. A good foldier cannot want
Those badges.

Greg. Now am not I of your mind
In that ; for I hold him the best foldier
That scapes best : Always at a mock-fencing¹⁰
I give him the best that has the fewest knocks.

Witty. Nay, I'll have a bout with your scholar, too.
To ask you

Why you should be poor, yet richly learn'd,
Were no question, at least, you can easily answer it ;
But whether you have learning enough to deserve
To be poor or no (since poverty is commonly
The meed of learning) is yet to be tried :
You have the languages ? I mean the chief,
As the Hebrew, Syriac, Greek, Latin, &c.

Pris. *Aliquantulum ; non totaliter, domine.*

Oldc. The Latin I have sufficiently tried him in,
And I promise you, Sir, he is very well grounded.

Witty. I will prove him in some of the rest.

and the latter of the forces of the States-General. The Spaniards were worsted, and sustained the loss of 2000 men killed, besides a great number taken prisoners. This battle is mentioned in several contemporary writers ; but we do not find the least notice taken in any of the accounts of the *forward and bold Scot*, whose bravery is here celebrated by our Authors.

R.

¹⁰ A cock-fencing.] Corrected by Symphon.

Toia miois fatherois iste cock-scomboy?

Pris. Kay yonkeron nigitton oy fouleroi asinifoy.

Witty. Cbeateron ton biton?

Pris. Tous pollous strikerous, angelo to peefo.

Witty. Certainly, Sir,

A very excellent scholar in the Greek.

Oldc. I do note a wondrous readiness in him.

Greg. I do wonder

How the Trojans could hold out ten years' siege,
As 'tis reported, against the Greeks: If Achilles
Spoke but this tongue, I do not think but he
Might have shaken down the walls in a sevendnight,
And ne'er troubled the wooden horse.

Witty. I will try him so far as I can in the Syriac.

Kircom bragmen, shag a dou ma dell mathou.

Pris. Hasbagath rabgabash shobos onoriadka.

Witty. Colpack rubasca, gnawerthem shig shag.

Pris. Napsbamothem ribshe bongomosh lashemechnagothi.

*Witty. Gentlemen, I have done! any man, that can,
Go further! I confess myself at a nonplus.*

*Greg. Faith, not I, Sir; I was at my furthest
In my natural language; I was never double-tongu'd,
I thank my hard fortune.*

*Witty. Well, gentlemen,
'Tis pity, (walk further off a little, my friends)
I say, 'tis pity such fellows, so endow'd,
So qualified with the gifts of nature and arts,
Yet should have such a scarcity of Fortune's benefits:
We must blame our iron-hearted age for it.*

*Oldc. 'Tis pity, indeed; and our pity shall speak
A little for 'em: Come, Sir! here's my groat.*

*Witty. A groat, Sir? oh fy! give nothing rather!
'Twere better you rail'd on 'em for begging,
And so quit yourself: I am a poor gentleman,
That have little but my wits to live on——*

*Oldc. Troth,
And I love you the better, Sir.*

*Witty. Yet I'll begin
A better example than so: Here, fellows,*

262 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

There's between you ; take purse and all ; and I
Would it were heavier for your sakes !

There's a pair of angels to guide you to your lodgings,
A poor gentleman's good will !

Pris. *Gratias, maximas gratias, benignissime domine !*

Oldc. This is an ill example for us, Sir : I would
This bountiful gentleman had not come this way to-day.

Greg. Pox, we must not shame ourselves now,
Sir ! I'll give as much as that gentleman,
Tho' I never be foldier or scholar while I live :
Here, friends ; there's a piece, that, if he were divided,
Would make a pair of angels for me too, in the love
I bear to the sword and the tongues.

Oldc. My larges

Shall beequal too, and much good do you. This bounty
Is a little abatement of my wit tho', I feel that.

Ruin. May soldiers ever defend such charities !

Pris. And scholars pray for their encrease !

Oldc. Fare you well !

Sir, these fellows may pray for you ; you have made
The scholar's commons exceed to-day. And, a word
with you, Sir !

You said you liv'd by your wits ; if you use
This bounty, you'll beggar your wits, believe it.

Witty. Oh, Sir, I hope to encrease 'em by it ; this seed
Never wants his harvest. Fare you well, Sir ! [*Exit.*]

Greg. I think a man were as good meet with a rea-
sonable thief,

As an unreasonable beggar sometimes.

I could find in my heart to beg half mine back again ;
Can you change my piece, my friends ?

Pris. *Tempora mutantur, & nos mutamur in illis.*

Greg. My gold is turn'd into Latin.

Re-enter Wittybate.

Witty. Look you, good fellows ;
Here's one round shilling more that lay conceal'd.

Oldc. Sir, away ! we shall be drawn further into
damage else.

Greg.

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 263

Greg. A pox of the fool! he live by his wits? If
his wits

Leave him any money, but what he begs or steals,
Very shortly, I'll be hang'd for him. [*Exit with Greg.*]

Ruin. This breakfast parcel was well fetch'd off,
i'faith!

Witty. Tush! a bye-blow for mirth; we must have
better

Purchase: We want a fourth for another project
That I have ripen'd.

Ruin. My wife; she shares, and can deserve it.

Witty. She can change her shape, and be masculine?

Ruin. 'Tis one of the free'st conditions: She fears not
The crack of a pistol; she dares say *stand* to a grazier.

Pris. *Probatum fuit, profecto, domine.*

Witty. Good! then you, Sir Bacchus Apollo, shall be
Dispatch'd with her share, and some contents, to meet us
Tomorrow, at a certain place and time appointed,
In the masculine gender: My father has a nephew,
And I an own cousin, coming up from the university,
Whom he loves must indulgently;
Easy master Credulous Oldcraft,
(For you know what your mere academic is).

Your carrier never misses his hour: He must not
Be robb'd, because he has but little to lose;
But he must join with us in a device
That I have, that shall rob my father of
A hundred pieces, and thank me to be rid on't:
For there's the ambition of my wit, to live upon his
profess'd wit,

That has turn'd me out to live by my wits.

Pris. *Cum hirundinis alis tibi regratulator.*

Witty. A male habit, a bag of an hundred weight,
Tho' it be counters, for my alchemy
Shall turn 'em into gold of my father's; the hour,
The place, the action shall be at large set down:
And, father, you shall know, that I put my portion
To use, that you have given me to live by;
And to confirm yourself in me renate,
I hope you'll find my wit's legitimate!

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T II.

*Enter Lady Ruinous and Servant.**Serv.* **N**AY, lady!*L. Ruin.* Put me not in mind on't, prithee!

You cannot do a greater wrong to women;
 For in our wants, 'tis the most chief affliction
 To have that name remember'd; 'tis a title
 That misery mocks us by, and the world's malice!
 Scorn and Contempt have not wherewith to work
 On humble callings; they are safe, and lie
 Level with Pity still, and pale Distress
 Is no great stranger to 'em; but when Fortune
 Looks with a stormy face on our conditions,
 We find Affliction work, and Envy pastime,
 And our worst enemy then, that most abuses us,
 Is that we are call'd by, *Lady*. Oh, my spirit,
 Will nothing make thee humble? I'm well methinks,
 And can live quiet with my fate sometimes,
 Until I look into the world again:
 Then I begin to rave at my stars' bitterness,
 To see how many muckhills plac'd above me;
 Peasants and droyls¹, caroches full of dunghills,
 Whose very birth stinks in a generous nostril,
 Glistring by night like glow-worms thro' the high-
 streets,
 Hurried by torch-light in the footmens' hands,
 That shew like running fire-drakes thro' the city,
 And I put to my shifts and wits to live,
 (Nay, sometimes danger too) on foot, on horseback,
 And earn my supper manfully ere I get it:
 Many a meal I've purchas'd at that rate,

¹ *Droyls.*] i. e. *Drudges*, &c.*Symphon.*

Enter Priscian.

Fed with a wound upon me, stamp'd at midnight.

Ha! what are you?

Prif. [*Pulls off his beard.*] Now you may tell yourself, Lady!

L. Ruin. Oh, Mr. Priscian! what's the project? For you ne'er come without one.

Prif. First, your husband, Sir Ruinous Gentry, greets you with best wishes, And here has sent you your full share by me In five cheats and two robberies.

L. Ruin. And what comes it to?

Prif. Near upon thirteen pound.

L. Ruin. A goodly share!

'Twill put a lady scarce in Philip and cheyney¹², With three small bugle laces, like a chambermaid: Here's precious lifting!

Prif. 'Las, you must consider, Lady, 'Tis but young term; attornies ha' small doings yet; Then highway lawyers, they must needs ha' little: We've had no great good luck, to speak troth, beauty, Since your stout ladyship parted from's at Highgate; But there's a fair hope now for a present hundred. Here's man's apparel! your horse stands at door.

L. Ruin. And what's the virtuous plot now?

Prif. Marry, Lady, You, like a brave young gallant, must be robb'd.

L. Ruin. I robb'd?

Prif. Nay then——

L. Ruin. Well, well, go on! Let's hear, Sir.

Prif. Here's a seal'd bag of a hundred; which indeed

Are counters all, only some sixteen groats

¹² *In Philip and cheyney.*] What sort of stuff *Philip* is, I don't remember ever to have heard or read of: I imagine the original reading run thus,

—— *Philippine cheyney*, which is a sort of stuff at present in common use, but goes now by the appellation of *harratcen*. *Sympson.*

266 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Of white money i'th' mouth on't.

L. Ruin. So ! what saddle have I ?

Pris. Monsieur Laroon's the Frenchman's.

L. Ruin. That again ?

You know so well it is not for my stride !

How oft have I complain'd on't ?

Pris. You may have Jockey's then, the little
Scotch one.

You must dispatch.

[*Exit.*]

L. Ruin. I'll soon be ready, Sir,
Before you have shifted saddles. Many women
Have their wealth flow to 'em ; I was made, I see,
To help my fortune, not my fortune me. [*Exit.*]

Enter Cunningham.

Cunn. My ways are goblin-led, and the night-elf
Still draws me from my home ; yet I follow :
Sure 'tis not altogether fabulous,
Such hags do get dominion of our tongues ;
So soon as we speak, the enchantment binds.
I have dissembled such a trouble on me,
As my best wits can hardly clear again :
Piping thro' this old reed, the Guardianess,
With purpose that my harmony shall reach
And please the lady's ear ; she stops below,
And echoes back my love unto my lips,
Persuaded by most violent arguments
Of self-love in herself, I am so self-fool,
To dote upon her hundred-wrinkled face.
I could beggar her to accept the gifts
She would throw upon me ; it were charity ;
But for pity's sake I will be a niggard,
And undo her, refusing to take from her.
I'm haunted again ! if it take not now,
I'll break the spell.

Enter Guardianess.

Guard. Sweet Cunningham, welcome !
What, a whole day absent ? Birds that build nests
Have

Have care to keep 'em.

Cunn. That is granted;
But not continually to sit upon 'em,
'Lefs in the youngling season: Else, they desire
To fly abroad, and recreate their labours;
Then they return with fresher appetite
To work again.

Guard. Well, well, you've built a nest
That will stand all storms; you need not mistrust
A weather-wreck: And, one day, it may be
The youngling season too; then, I hope,
You'll ne'er fly out of sight.

Cunn. There will be pains
I see to shake this bur off!—And, sweetest,
Prithee how fares thy charge? has my good friend,
Sir Gregory, the countenance of a lover?

Guard. No, by my troth, not in my mind; methinks,
(Setting his worship aside) he looks like a fool.

Cunn. Nay, i'faith, ne'er divide his worship from him
For that small matter! fool and worship are no
Such strangers now-a-days. But my meaning is,
Has he thy lady's countenance of love?
Looks she like a welcome on him? plainly,
Have they as good hope of one another,
As, Cupid blefs us, we have?

Guard. Troth, I know not;
I can perceive no forwardness in my charge.
But I protest I wish the knight
Better for your sake, bird.

Cunn. Why, thanks, sweet bird!
And with my heart I wish that he had as strong
And likely hope of her, as thou hast of me.

Guard. Well, he is like to speed never the worse
For that good wish. And I will tell you, bird,
(For secrets are not to be kept betwixt us two)
My charge thinks well of you.

Cunn. Of me? for what?

Guard. For my sake; I mean so: I have heard her
A hundred times say, since her uncle gave her

The

268 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

The first bob about you, that she'd do somewhat
For my sake, if things went well together:
We've spoke of doors and bolts, and things, and
things—

Go to! I'll not tell all ¹³; but you'll find some
Advancement, for my sake, I do delieve.

Cunn. Faith, be not sparing; tell me!

Guard. By my lady;

You shall pardon me for that! it were a shame
If men should hear all that women speak behind
Their backs sometimes.

Cunn. You must give me leave yet
At least to give her thanks.

Guard. Nor that neither;
She must not take a notice of my blabbing.
It is sufficient you shall give me thanks; for
'Tis for my sake, if she be bountiful:
She loves me, and loves you too for my sake.

Cunn. How shall I, knowing this, but be ingrate,
Not to repay her with my dearest duty?

Guard. Ay, but you must not know it; if you tell
All that I open to you, you'll shame us both:
Afar off, you may kiss your hand, blush, or so,
But I'll allow no nearer conference.

Cunn. Whoop! you'll be jealous, I perceive now.

Guard. Jealous?

Why, there is no true love without it, bird!
I must be jealous of thee: But for her,
(Were it within my duty to my master)
I durst trust her with the strongest tempter,
And I dare swear her now as pure a virgin
As e'er was welcom'd to a marriage-bed:
If thoughts may be untainted, hers are so.

Cunn. And where's the cause of your fear then?

Guard. Well, well;
When things are past, and the wedding torches
Lighted at matches, to kindle better fire,
Then I'll tell you more.

¹³ Go to, I'll tell you all.] Varied by Symphon.

Cunn. Come, come, I see further,
That, if we were married, you'd be jealous.

Guard. I protest, I should a little, but not of her:
It is the married woman (if you mark it)
And not the maid that longs; the appetite
Follows the first taste; when we have relished,
We wish cloying; the taste once pleas'd before,
Then our desire is whetted on to more.
But I reveal too much to you, i'faith, bird.

Cunn. Not a whit, faith, bird, betwixt you and I;
I am beholding for bettering of my knowledge.

Guard. Nay,
You shall know more of me, if you'll be rul'd;
But make not things common.

Cunn. Ud' so, your lady!

Guard. Ay, 'tis no matter; she'll like well of this;
Our familiarity is her content.

Enter Niece and Pompey.

Niece. This present from Sir Gregory?

Pompey. From my master,
The worshipful, right Sir Gregory Fop.

Niece. A ruff? And what might be his high conceit
In sending of a ruff?

Pompey. I think he had
Two conceits in't, forsooth¹⁴, to high, to low;
Ruff high, because as the ruff does embrace
Your neck all day, so does he desire to throw
His knightly arms——

Niece. But then I leave him off a-nights.

Pompey. Why, then he is ruff low, a ruffian;
A bold adventurous Errant to do any
Rough service for his lady.

¹⁴ He had two conceits in it, forsooth, too high too low.] The playing upon words here, I imagine to have been the conceit of some poor player. If we consider this passage it will be found that, *two conceits too high too low*, is nothing but found without sense, and that the Poets probably wrote,

—— *two conceits, t'one high, t'one low.*

Symphon.

Symphon's conceit seems the strangest of the whole.

Niece.

Niece. A witty and unhappy conceit!—Does he mean As he seems to say unto that reverence? [*Toward Cunn.* He does wooe her sure!

Pompey. To tell you truth, lady,
His conceit was far better than I have blaz'd it yet.

Niece. Do you think so, Sir?

Pompey. Nay, I know it, forsooth;
For it was two days ere he compass'd it,
To find a fitting present for your ladyship:
He was sending once a very fine puppy to you.

Niece. And that he would have brought himself.

Pompey. So he would indeed; but then
He alter'd his device, and sent this ruff,
Requesting withal, that whensoever it is foul,
You (with your own hands) would bestow the starch-
ing of it.

Niece. Else she wooes him: Now his eyes shoot
this way.— [*Toward Cunn.*
And what was the reason for that, Sir?

Pompey. There lies his main conceit, lady; for, says he,
In so doing, she cannot chuse but in the starching
To clap it often between her hands, and so
She gives a great liking and applause to my present;
Whereas, if I should send a puppy, she ever
Calls it to her with *kiss, kiss, kiss*, which is
A fearful disgrace: He drew the device
From a play¹⁵ at the Bull, t'other day.

Niece. Ay marry, Sir, this was a rich conceit indeed.

Pompey. And far fetch'd, therefore good for you, lady.

Guard. How now? which way look you, bird?

Cunn. At the fool, bird;
Shall I not look at the fool?

Guard. At the fool,
And I here? what need that? pray look this way.

Niece. I'll fit him aptly! Either I'll awake
His wits (if he have any) or force him to appear

¹⁵ *The device from a play.*] And yet next page he tells *Niece*, who suspected his master in point of wit and ingenuity, that it was really his (Sir Gregory's) own.

Sympson.

(As yet I cannot think him) without any.—

Sirrah, tell me one thing true,

That I shall ask you now : Was this device

Your master's own ? I doubt his wit in it ;

He is not so ingenious.

Pompey. His own,

I assure you, madam.

Niece. Nay, you must not lie.

Pompey. Not with a lady ? I'd rather lie with you

Than lie with my master, by your leave,

In such a case as this.

Guard. Yet again your eye ?

Cunn. The fool makes mirth, i'faith ;

I'd hear some.

Guard. Come, you shall hear none but me.

Niece. Come hither, friend ; nay, come nearer me ! Did

Thy master send thee to me ? He may be wise,

But did not shew it much in that ; men sometimes

May wrong themselves unawares, when they least
think on't.

Was Vulcan ever so unwise to send Mars

To be his spokesman, when he went a-wooing ?

Send thee ? Hey-ho ! a pretty rolling eye !

Pompey. I can turn up the white and the black too,

An need be, forsooth.

Niece. Why, here's an amorous nose !

Pompey. You see the worst of my nose, forsooth.

Niece. A cheek !

How I could pat it now in dalliance¹⁶ !

A pair of lips ! Oh, that we were uney'd !

I could suck fugar from 'em ; what a beard is here !

When will the knight thy master have such a stamp

Of manhood on his face ? Nay, do not blush.

Pompey. 'Tis nothing but my flesh and blood that
rises so.

Cunn. 'Death, she courts the fool !

Guard. Away, away ! 'tis sport ; do not mind it.

Niece. Give me thy hand ; come, be familiar !

¹⁶ *How I could put it now in dalliance.*] Corrected by Symphon.

272 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Ay, here's a promising palm! what a soft
Handful of pleasure's here! Here's down compar'd
With flocks and quilted straw; thy knight's fingers
Are lean mattrice-rubbers to these feathers:
I prithee let me lean my cheek upon't!
What a soft pillow's here!

Pompey. Hum, umh, hu, hum!

Niece. Why, there's a courage in that lively passion!
Measure thee all o'er, there is not a limb
But has his full proportion: It is my voice,
There's no compare betwixt the knight and thee;
The goodlier man by half! at once, now I
See thee all over.

Pompey. If you had seen me swim the other day
On my back, you would have said you had seen!
There was two chambermaids that saw me, and
My legs by chance were tangled in the flags,
And when they saw how I was hang'd, they cried out,
Oh, help the man for fear he be drown'd!

Niece. They
Could do no less in pity. Come, thine arm!
We'll walk together.

Cunn. Blindness of love and women! why, she dotes
Upon the fool.

Guard. What's that to you? mind her not.

Cunn. Away, you bur!

Guard. How's that?

Cunn. Hang off, flesh-hook! fasten thine itchy clasp
On some dry toad-stool, that will kindle with thee,
And burn together.

Guard. Oh, abominable!
Why, do you not love me?

Cunn. No; never did!

I took thee down a little way to enforce
A vomit from my offended stomach; now
Thou'rt up again, I loath thee filthily.

Guard. Oh, villain!

[Retires.]

Cunn. Why, dost thou not see a sight
Would make a man abjure the sight of women?

Niece.

Niece. Ha, ha, ha! he's vex'd! ha, ha, ha!

Pompey. Ha, ha, ha!

Niece. Why dost thou laugh?

Pompey. Because thou laughest; nothing else, i'faith.

Cunn. She has but mock'd my folly! else she finds not
The bosom of my purpose: Some other way
Must make me know. I'll try her; and may chance
quit

The fine dexterity of her lady-wit. [Exit.

Niece. Yes, in troth, I laugh'd to think of thy master
Now, what he would think if he knew this!

Pompey. By my troth,
I laugh at him too. Faith, firrah, he's but a fool,
To say the truth, tho' I say't that should not say't.

Niece. Yes, thou shouldst say truth, and I believe thee.
Well, for this time we'll part: You perceive something;
Our tongues betray our hearts, there's our weakness;
But pray be silent!

Pompey. As mouse in cheese, or goose in hay, i'faith.

Niece. Look, we are cut off! there's my hand
Where my lips would be.

Pompey. I'll wink, and think 'em
Thy lips. Farewell! [Exit.

Niece. Now, Guardianess,
I need not ask where you have been.

Guard. Oh, lady,
Ne'er was woman so abus'd!

Re-enter Pompey.

Pompey. Dost thou hear, lady sweetheart?
I had forgot to tell thee; if you will,
I will come back in the evening.

Niece. By no means;
Come not 'till I send for you.

Pompey. If there be
Any need, you may think of things when I am gone.
I may be convey'd into your chamber; I'll lie
Under the bed while midnight, or so;
Or you shall put me up in one of your little boxes;

274 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

I can creep in at a small hole.

Niece. These

Are things I dare not venture: I charge you,
On my love, never come 'till I send for you.

Pompey. *Verbum insipienti!* 'Tis enough to the wise.
Nor I think it is not fit the knight should know
Any thing yet.

Niece. Bynomeans! pray you go now; we're suspected.

Pompey. For the things that are past, let us use our
secrets.

Niece. Now I will make a firm trial of your love;
As you love me, not a word more at this time,
Not a syllable; 'tis the seal of love; take heed!

Pompey. Hum, hum, hum, hum! [Exit.

Niece. He hums loth to depart ¹⁷.

So, this pleasant trouble's gone. Now, Guardianess!
What! your eyes easing your heart? the cause, woman?

Guard. The cause is false man, madam! oh, lady!
I have been gulled in a shining carbuncle,
A very glow-worm, that I thought had fire in't,
And 'tis as cold as ice.

Niece. And justly serv'd;
Wouldst thou once think that such an erring spring ¹⁸
Would dote upon thine autumn?

Guard. Oh, had you heard
Him but protest——

Niece. I would not have believ'd him.
Thou might'st have perceiv'd how I mock'd thy folly,
In wanton imitation with the fool.
Go, weep the sin of thy credulity,

¹⁷ Pompey. *Hum, hum, hum, hum*——

He hums loth to depart.] The impropriety of putting
this passage into Pompey's mouth is evident upon the bare mention.
To the Niece it unquestionably belongs, and we should write,

Pompey. *Hum, hum, hum, hum.*

Niece. *He hums loth to depart.*

[Exit.

Symphon.

¹⁸ *An erring spring.*] So first folio; second, *early*; and Seward
easing. We have followed the oldest copy, not only as authorized,
but as falling immediately in with the sense of the context, and being
preferable to *easing*, which is a hard epithet in this place.

Not of thy loss ! for it was never thine,
 And it is gain to miss it. Wert thou so dull ?
 Nay, yet thou'rt stupid and incapable.
 Why, thou wert but the bait to fish with, not
 The prey ; the fable to catch another bird with.

Guard. Indeed he call'd me bird.

Niece. Yet thou perceiv'st not ;
 It is your niece he loves ; wouldst thou be made
 A stalking jade ? 'tis she, examine it.—
 I'll hurry all awry¹⁹, and tread my path
 Over unbeaten grounds ; go level to the mark,
 Not by circular bouts : Rare things are pleasing ;
 And rare's but seldom in the simple sense,
 But has her emphasis with eminence. [Exit.

Guard. My niece ? she the rival of my abuse ?
 My flesh and blood wrong me ? I'll aunt her for't !

Enter Mirabel.

Oh, Opportunity, thou blestest me !—
 Now, gentlewoman ! are you parted so soon ?
 Where is your friend, I pray ? your Cunningham ?

Mir. What say you, aunt ?

Guard. Come, come, your Cunningham !
 I am not blind with age yet, nor deaf.

Mir. Dumb I am sure you're not. What ail you, aunt ?
 Are you not well ?

¹⁹ I'll hurry all awry, and tread my path

Over unbeaten grounds ; go level to the mark,

Not by circular bouts ; rare things are pleasing.] Seward says,

• If she hurrys all awry, it is plain she must go to her mark as she
 • really does, by circular bouts, i. e. by seeming to aim at something
 • else. I suppose the original to have been,

• Over unbeaten grounds go level to

• The mark, by circular bouts ; rare things are pleasing :

And Symphon changes *not* into *but*.—There needs neither omission
 nor alteration. Seward misconstrues the text, and Symphon's change
 of *not* into *but* directly contradicts the Poet's meaning. By *hurrying*
awry she only means leaving the common way, and *to tread a path*
over unbeaten grounds, by which means she will go *LEVEL* to the mark,
 NOT round about. Did Messrs. Seward or Symphon never amuse
 themselves in their younger days with the diversion of *steeple-hunting* ?
 'Tis the very thing.

Guard. No, nor sick;
Nor mad, nor in my wits; nor sleeping,
Nor waking; nor nothing, nor any thing:
I know not what I am, nor what I am not!

Mir. Mercy cover us! what do you mean, aunt?

Guard. I mean to be reveng'd.

Mir. On whom?

Guard. On thee, baggage!

Mir. Revenge should follow injury,
Which never reach'd so far as thought in me
Towards you, aunt.

Guard. Your cunning, minion,
Nor your Cunningham, can either blind me!
The gentle beggar loves you.

Mir. Beseech you, let
Me stay your error! I begin to hear,
And shake off my amazement: If you think
That ever any passage treating love
Hath been betwixt us yet commenced; any
Silent eye-glance that might but sparkle fire,
So much as brother and sister might meet with;
The lip-salute, so much as strangers might
Take a farewell with; the commixed hands;
Nay, but the least thought of the least of these,
In troth you wrong your bosom; by that truth
Which I think yet you durst be bail for in me
If it were offer'd you, I am as free
As all this protestation.

Guard. May I believe this?

Mir. If ever you'll believe truth. Why, I thought
He had spoke love to you; and if his heart
Prompted his tongue, sure I did hear so much.

Guard. Oh, falsest man! Ixion's plague fell on me!
Never by woman, such a mase'line cloud,
So airy and so subtle, was embrac'd.

Mir. By no cause in me, by my life, dear aunt.

Guard. I believe you: Then help in my revenge,
And you shall do't, or lose my love for ever:
I'll have him quitted at his equal weapon.

Thou

Thou art young, follow him, bait his desires
 With all the engines of a woman's wit,
 Stretch modesty even to the highest pitch;
 He cannot freeze at such a flaming beauty;
 And when thou hast him by the amorous gills,
 Think on my vengeance, choak up his desires,
 Then let his banquetings be Tantalism.
 Let thy disdain spurn the dissembler out!
 Oh, I should climb the stars, and sit above,
 To see him burn to ashes in his love!

Mir. This will be a strange task²⁰, aunt, and an
 Unwilling labour; yet, in your injunction,
 I am a servant to't.

Guard. Thou'lt undertake't?

Mir. Yes; let the success commend itself hereafter!

Guard. Effect it, girl, my substance is thy store;
 Nothing but want of will makes woman poor. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Sir Gregory and Pompey.

Greg. Why, Pompey, thou'rt not stark mad, art
 thou? wilt thou
 Not tell me how my lady does?

Pompey. Your lady?

Greg. Did she receive the thing that I sent her kindly,
 or no?

Pompey. The thing
 That you sent her, knight, by the thing that you sent,
 Was, for the thing's sake that was sent to carry
 The thing that you sent, very kindly receiv'd. First,
 There's your indenture; (now go seek you a servant!)
 Secondly, you're a knight; thirdly and lastly,
 I'm mine own man; and, fourthly, fare you well!

Greg. Why, Pompey! Prithee let me speak with thee!
 I'll lay my life some hare has cross'd him.

Pompey. Knight,
 If you be a knight, so keep you: As for the lady,
 Who shall say that she is not a fair lady?
 A sweet lady, an honest and a virtuous lady?

²⁰ *A strange tale.*] Varied by Symphon.

278 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

I will say he is a base fellow, a blab of his tongue,
And I will make him eat these fingers' ends.

Greg. Why, here's nobody says so, Pompey.

Pompey. Whatsoever things have past between the lady
And the other party, whom I will not name
At this time, I say she is virtuous
And honest, and I will maintain't, as long as
I can maintain myself with bread and water.

Greg. Why, I know nobody thinks otherwise.

Pompey. Any man that does but think it in my hearing,
I will make him think on't while he has a thought
In his bosom! Shall we say that kindnesse
From ladies are common? or that favours and pro-
testations

Are things of no moment betwixt parties and parties?
I say still, whatsoever has been betwixt the lady
And the party, which I will not name, that she is honest,
And shall be honest, whatsoever she does
By day or by night, by light or by darkness,
With cut and long tail²¹.

Greg. Why, I say she is honest.

Pompey. Is she honest?

In what sense do you say she's honest, knight?

Greg. If I could not find in my heart to throw
My dagger at thy head, hilts and all, I'm an ass,
And no gentleman!

Pompey. Throw your dagger at me?
Do not, knight! I give you fair warning,
'Tis but cast away if you do; for you shall have
No other words of me: The lady is an honest lady,
Whatsoever reports may go of sports and toys,
And thoughts, and words, and deeds betwixt her
And the party which I will not name.
This I give you to understand, that another man

²¹ *Cut and long tail*] According to the forest laws, the dog of a man, who had no right to the privilege of chace, was obliged to cut, or *law* his dog, amongst other modes of disabling him, by depriving him of his tail. A dog so cut was called a *cut*, or *cut-tail*, and by contraction *cur*. *Cut and long tail* therefore signify the dog of a clown, and the dog of a gentleman,

Steevens.

May have as good an eye, as amorous a nose,
 As fair a stamp'd beard, and be as proper a man,
 As a knight (I name no parties); a servingman
 May be as good as a Sir,
 A Pompey as a Gregory, a Doodle as a Fop:
 So, servingman Pompey Doodle may be respected
 As well with ladies (tho' I name no parties)
 As Sir Gregory Fop. So, farewell! [Exit.

Greg. If the fellow be not out of his wits, then will I
 Never have any more wit while I live!
 Either the fight of the lady has gaster'd him²²,
 Or else he's drunk; or else he walks in his sleep,
 Or else he's a fool, or a knave, or both;
 One of the three I'm sure 'tis. Yet, now I think on't,
 She has not us'd me so kindly as her uncle
 Promis'd me she should: But that's all one;
 He says I shall have her, and I dare take his word
 For the best horse I have, and that's
 A weightier thing than a lady, I'm sure on't. [Exit.

*Enter Lady Ruinous (as a man), Wittypate, Sir Ruinous,
 Priscian, and master Credulous, binding and robbing
 her, and in scarfs. Credulous finds the bag.*

L. Ruin. Nay, I am your own; 'tis in your pleasure
 how
 You will deal with me: Yet I would entreat,
 You will not make that which is bad enough
 Worse than it need be, by a second ill,
 When it can render you no second profit!
 If it be coin you seek, you have your prey,
 All my store I vow (and it weighs a hundred);
 My life, or any hurt you give my body,
 Can enrich you no more.

Witty. You may pursue.

²² *Gaster'd*] i. e. *frightened*.

' And when he saw my best-alarmed spirits

' Bold in the quarrel's right, rous'd to the encounter,

' Or whether *gaster'd* by the noise I made,

' But suddenly he fled.' King Lear, act ii. sc. i. R.

280 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

L. Ruin. As I'm a gentleman, I never will!

Witty. Only we'll bind you to quiet behaviour
'Till you call out for bail, and on the other
Side of the hedge leave you: But keep the peace
'Till we be out of hearing! for by that
We shall be out of danger: If we come back,
We come with a mischief!

L. Ruin. You need not fear me.

Prif. Come, we'll bestow you then.

[*Exeunt Ruin. Prif. and Lady.*]

Witty. Why, la you, Sir, is not this a swifter revenue
Than *Sic probos, ergos & igiturs* can bring in?
Why, is not this one of your syllogisms
In Barbara, *Omne utile est honestum*?

Cred. Well, Sir, a little more of this acquaintance
Will make me know you fully: I protest
You have (at first sight) made me conscious
Of such a deed my dreams ne'er prompted. Yet
I could almost have wish'd rather ye had robb'd
Me of my cloak, (for my purse, 'tis a scholar's)
Than to have made me a robber.
I had rather have answer'd three difficult questions
Than this one, as easy as yet it seems.

Witty. Tush! you
Shall never come to further answer for't.
Can you confess your penurious uncle,
In his full face of love, to be so strict
A niggard to your commons, that you're fain
To fize your belly out with shoulder fees,
With rumps and kidnies, and cues of single beer,
And yet make dainty to feed more daintily²³,
At this easier rate? Fy, master Credulous!
I blush for you.

Cred. This is a truth undeniable.

Witty. Why, go to then! I hope I know your uncle:
How does he use his son, nearer than you?

²³ *And yet make daymy to feed more daintily.* The first folio reads, *daymy*; for want of consulting that edition (we suppose) Symphon is greatly puzzled what to do with *daymy*.

Cred.

Cred. Faith, like his jade, upon the bare commons
Turn'd out to pick his living as he can get it :
He would have been glad to have shar'd in such
A purchase, and thank'd his good fortune too.

Enter Ruinous and Priscian.

But mum, no more !—Is all safe, bullies ?

Ruin. Secure ;
The gentleman thinks him most happy in his loss,
With's life and limbs safe, and redoubles
His first vow, as he is a gentleman,
Never to pursue us.

Witty. Well ; away then !
Disperse ! you with master Credulous, who still
Shall bear the purchase ; Priscian and I
Will take some other course : You know our meeting
At the 'Three Cups in St. Giles' ; with this proviso,
(For 'tis a law with us) that nothing be opened
'Till all be present : The loser says a hundred,
And it can weigh no less.

Ruin. Come, Sir, we'll be your guide.

Cred. My honesty, which till now was never forfeited,
All shall be close 'till our meeting ! [*Exit with Ruin.*

Witty. Tush, I believe it ;—and then all shall out.
Where is the thief that's robb'd ?

Enter Lady Ruinous.

L. Ruin. Here, master Oldcraft.
All follows now.

Witty. 'Twas neatly done, wench. Now to turn
that bag
Of counterfeits to current pieces, & *actum est* !

L. Ruin. You are the chemist ; we'll blow the fire still,
If you can mingle the ingredients.

Witty. I will not miss a cause²⁴, a quantity, a dram.
You know the place.

²⁴ *I will not miss a cause, a quantity, a dram.* Chymical terms are necessary here, *cause* therefore seems a corruption, and *quantity* makes

282 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Pris. I have told her that, Sir.

Witty. Good! Turn Ruinous to be a constable,
(I'm sure we want not beards of all sorts, from
The worshipful magistrate to the under watchman)
Because we must have no danger of life,
But a cleanly cheat; attach Credulous:
The cause is plain, the theft found about him;
Then fall I in, in his own cousin's shape,
By mere accident, where finding him distress'd,
I with some difficulty must fetch him off,
With promise that his uncle shall shut up all,
With double restitution: Master constable
Ruinous his mouth shall be stopt;
You, mistress Rob-thief, shall have your share of
What we can gull my father of. Is't plain enough?

L. Ruin. As plain a cozenage as can be, faith.

Witty. Father, I come again, and again! When this is
Past too, father, one will beget another.
I'd be loath to leave your posterity barren:
You were best to come to composition, father:
Two hundred pieces yearly allow me yet,
It will be cheaper, father, than my wit;
For I will cheat none but you, dear father. [*Exeunt.*]

A C T III.

Enter Oldcraft and Gregory.

Oldc. **W**HY, now you take the course, Sir Gregory
Fop:

I could enforce her, an I list; but love

makes no proper climax; one might easily form a proper climax with
a scruple, dram or grain, but the laws of criticism allow no such de-
viation from the trace of the letters; the only probable conjecture
that I can form is,

—— *a cart, a quint, a dram;*

i. e. a fourth or fifth part, or even a dram. I spell *cart* rather than
quart, because our English writers so spell it in other instances, as a
cardecu instead of *quart d'ecu*.

Seward.

That's

That's gently won is a man's own for ever.
Have you prepar'd good musick?

Greg. As fine a noise²⁵, uncle,
As heart can wish.

Oldc. Why, that's done like a fuitor!
They must be woo'd an hundred several ways,
Before you obtain the right way in a woman:
'Tis an odd creature, full of creeks and windings,
The serpent has not more; for sh' has all his,
And then her own beside came in by her mother.

Greg. A fearful portion for a man to venture on!

Oldc. But the way found once by the wits of men,
There is no creature lies so tame again.

Greg. I promise you, not a house-rabbit, Sir.

Oldc. No sucker on 'em all²⁶.

Greg. What a thing's that?
They're pretty fools, I warrant, when they're tame,
As a man can lay his lips to.

Oldc. How were you bred, Sir?
Did you never make a fool of a tenant's daughter?

Greg. Never, i'faith; they ha' made some fools
for me,
And brought 'em many a time under their aprons.

Oldc. They could not shew you the way plainlier,
I think,
To make a fool again.

Greg. There's fools enough, Sir,
'Less they were wiser.

Oldc. This is wondrous rare!

²⁵ *As fine a noise.*] It is plain from this passage, and Ben Jonson's *Silent Woman*, that *noise* was formerly used to express a concert of *musick*. Many of our old authors will afford instances of this: Among the rest, in the Second Part of *Henry IV.* act ii. scene iv. one of the Drawers says, 'See if thou canst find out Sneak's *noise*; mistress 'Teasheet would fain hear some *musick*.' In a note on that passage, Mr. Steevens produces various proofs of this acceptation of the word.

²⁶ Greg. *I promise you, not a house-rabbit, Sir.*

Oldc. *No sucker on 'em all.*] In the First Part of *Henry IV.* Falstaff says, 'Hang me up by the heels for a *rabbit sucker*!' which Dr. Johnson explains to be a *sucking-rabbit*; and Mr. Steevens furnishes several instances in support of that explanation.

284 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Come you to London with a maidenhead, knight?
A gentleman of your rank ride with a cloke-bag?
Never an hostess by the way to leave it with?
Nor tapster's sister? nor head-ostler's wife?
What, nobody?

Greg. Well mock'd, old wit-monger!
I keep it for your Niece.

Oldc. Do not say so, for shame! she'll laugh at thee:
A wife ne'er looks for't; 'tis a batchelor's penny;
He may give't to a beggar-wench, i'th' progress time,
And ne'er be call'd to account for't. [*Exit.*]

Greg. 'Would I had known so much!
I could ha' stopt a beggar's mouth by the way,

Enter Page and Fidler's Boy.

That rail'd upon me 'cause I'd give her nothing.—
What, are they come?

Page. And plac'd directly, Sir,
Under her window.

Greg. What may I call you, gentleman?

Boy. A poor servant to the viol; I'm the voice, Sir.

Greg. In good time, master Voice!

Boy. Indeed, good time does get the mastery.

Greg. What countryman, master Voice?

Boy. Sir, born at Ely; we all set up in *cla*,
But our house commonly breaks in Rutlandshire.

Greg. A shrewd place by my faith! it may well break
Your voice; it breaks many a man's back. Come,
Set to your business.

S O N G.

Fain would I wake you, sweet, but fear
I should invite you to worse cheer;
In your dreams you cannot fare
Meaner than musick; no compare!
None of your slumbers are compil'd
Under the pleasure makes a child;
Your day-delights, so well compact,
That what you think turns all to act:

I'd wish my life no better play,
Your dream by night, your thought by day.

Wake, gently wake,
Part softly from your dreams!

The morning flies
To your fair eyes,
To take her special beams.

Greg. I hear her up. Here, master Voice,
Pay you the instruments; save what you can,

Enter Niece above.

To keep you when you're crack'd. [*Exit Boy.*

Niece. Who should this be,
That I'm so much beholding to for sweetness?
Pray Heav'n, it happens right!

Greg. Good morrow, mistress!

Niece. An ill day, and a thousand, come upon thee!

Greg. 'Light! that's six hundred more than any
almanack has!

Niece. Comes it from thee? it is the mangiest musick
That ever woman heard.

Greg. Nay, say not so, lady!
There's not an itch about 'em.

Niece. I could curse
My attentive powers, for giving entrance to't!
There is no boldness like the impudence
That's lock'd in a fool's blood! How durst you do
this?

In conscience I abus'd you as sufficiently
As woman could a man; insatiate coxcomb!
The mocks and spiteful language I have given thee
Would o' my life ha' serv'd ten reasonable men,
And rise contented too, and left enough for their
friends.

Thou glutton at abuses, never satisfied?
I am persuaded thou devour'st more flouts
Than all thy body's worth; and still a-hungred?
A mischief of that maw! prithee seek elsewhere;
In troth I'm weary of abusing thee:

Get

286 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Get thee a fresh mistress, thou'lt make work enough.
I do not think there's scorn enough in town
To serve thy turn ; take the court-ladies in,
And all their women to 'em, that exceed 'em !

Greg. Is this in earnest, lady ?

Niece. Oh, unsatiable !

Dost thou count all this but an earnest yet ?
I'd thought I'd paid thee all the whole sum ! trust me,
Thou'lt beggar my derision utterly ;
If thou stay'st longer, I shall want a laugh :
If I knew where to borrow a contempt
Would hold thee tack, stay and be hang'd thou shouldst
then :

But th'ha'st no conscience, now t'extort hate from me,
When one has spent all she can make upon thee :
Must I begin to pay thee hire again,
After I've rid thee twice ? faith, 'tis unreasonable !

Greg. Say you so ? I'll know that presently. [*Exit.*

Niece. Now he runs

To fetch my uncle to this musty bargain ;
But I have better ware always at hand,
And lay by this still, when he comes to cheapen.

Enter Cunningham.

Cunn. I met the musick now ; yet cannot learn
What entertainment he receiv'd from her.

Niece. There's somebody set already²⁷ ; I must to't,
I see.—

Well, well, Sir Gregory !

Cunn. Ha ! Sir Gregory ?

Niece. Where-e'er you come, you may well boast
your conquest.

Cunn. She's lost, i'faith ! enough ! has Fortune then
Remember'd her great boy ? she seldom fails 'em.

Niece. He was th' unlikeliest man at first methought,
To have my love ! we never met but wrangled.

²⁷ *There's somebody set ;*] i. e. *Possed, stationed.* We should not have thought an explanation necessary, had not the passage been quite unintelligible to Symphon, who proposes reading *set* or *fetch'd*.

Cunn.

Cunn. A pox upon that wrangling, say I still!
 I never knew't fail yet, where-e'er it came;
 It never comes, but, like a storm of hail,
 'Tis sure to bring fine weather at the tail on't;
 There's not one match'mongst twenty made without it;
 It fights i' th' tongue, but's sure to agree i' th' haunches.

Niece. That man that should ha' told me, when
 time was,
 I should ha' had him, had been laugh'd at piteously!
 But see how things will change!

Cunn. Here's a heart feels it!
 Oh, the deceitful promises of love!
 What trust should a man put in the lip of woman?
 She kiss'd me with that strength, as if sh' had meant
 To ha' set the fair print of her soul upon me.

Niece. I would ha' sworn 'twould ne'er ha' been a
 match once.

Cunn. I'll hear no more; I'm mad to hear so much!
 Why should I aim my thoughts at better fortunes
 Than younger brothers have? that's a maid with no-
 thing,
 Or some old soap-boiler's widow, without teeth:
 There waits my fortune for me; seek no further! [*Exit.*]

Enter Oldcraft and Sir Gregory.

Oldc. You tell me things, Sir Gregory, that can't be.
 She will not, nor she dare not.

Greg. 'Would I were whipt then!

Niece. I'll make as little show of love, Sir Gregory,
 As ever woman did; you shall not know
 You have my heart a good while.

Oldc. Heard you that?

Niece. Man will insult so soon; 'tis his condition;
 'Tis good to keep him off as long as we can:
 I've much ado, I swear; and love i' th' end
 Will have his course: Let maids do what they can,
 They are but frail things 'till they end in man.

Oldc. What say you to this, Sir?

Greg. This is somewhat handsome.

Niece.

288 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Niece. And by that little wrangling that I feign'd,
Now I shall try how constant his love is,
Altho' it went sore against my heart to chide him.

Greg. Alas, poor gentlewoman!

Oldc. Now you're sure of truth;

You hear her own thoughts speak.

Greg. They speak indeed.

Oldc. Go, you're a brainless coax, a toy, a Fop;
I'll go no further than your name, Sir Gregory,
I'll right myself there. Were you from this place,
You should perceive I'm heartily angry with you!
Offer to sow strife 'twixt my Niece and I?—

Good-morrow, Niece, good-morrow!

Niece. Many fair ones to you, Sir!

Oldc. Go! you're a coxcomb.—How dost, Niece,
this morning?—

An idle shallow fool!—Slep'dst thou well, girl?—
Fortune may very well provide thee lordships,
For Honesty has left thee little manners.

Greg. How am I bang'd o'both sides!

Oldc. Abuse kindness?—

Wilt take the air to-day, Niece?

Niece. When you please, Sir.

There stands the heir behind you I must take
(Which I'd as lieve take as take him, I swear).

Oldc. La' you! do you hear't continued to your
teeth now?

A pox of all such Gregories! what a hand

Have I with you? [*Niece lets fall her scarf.*]

Greg. No more! i'feck, I ha' done, Sir.

Lady, your scarf's fall'n down.

Niece. 'Tis but your luck, Sir,
And does presage the mistress must fall shortly;
You may wear it, an you please.

Oldc. There's a trick for you!

You're parlously belov'd; you should complain!

Greg. Yes, when I complain, Sir,

Then do your worst; there I'll deceive you, Sir.

Oldc. You are a dolt, and so I leave you, Sir. [*Exit.*]

Greg.

Greg. Ah, firrah mistress, were you caught, i'faith?
We overheard you all; ' I must not know
' I have your heart;' take heed o' that, I pray!
I knew some scarf would come.

Niece. He's quite gone, sure:—
Ah, you base coxcomb; couldst thou come again,
And so abus'd as thou wast?

Greg. How!

Niece. It would ha' kill'd
A sensible man; he would ha' gone to his chamber
And broke his heart, by this time.

Greg. Thank you heartily!

Niece. Or fix'd a naked rapier in a wall,
Like him that earn'd his knighthood ere he had it,
And then refus'd, upon't ran up to th' hilts.

Greg. Yes, let him run for me! I was never brought
up to't,
I never profess'd running i' my life.

Niece. What art thou made on, thou tough vil-
lainous vermin?
Will nothing destroy thee?

Greg. Yes, yes, assure yourself
Unkind words may do much.

Niece. Why, dost thou want 'em?
I've e'en consum'd my spleen to help thee to 'em:
Tell me what sort of words they be would speed thee,
I'll see what I can do yet.

Greg. I'm much beholding to you.
You're willing to bestow huge pains upon me.

Niece. I should account nothing too much to rid thee.

Greg. I wonder you'd not offer to destroy me,
All the while your uncle was here.

Niece. Why, there thou
Betray'st thy house; we of the Oldcrafts were
Born to more wit than so.

Greg. I wear your favour here.

Niece. 'Would it might rot thy arm off! If thou
knew'st
With what contempt thou hast it; what heart's bitterness,
How many cunning curses came along with't,

290 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Thou'dst quake to handle it.

Greg. A pox, take't again then!
Who'd be thus plagu'd of all hands?

Niece. No, wear't still;
But long I hope thou shalt not; 'tis but cast
Upon thee purposely to serve another,
That has more
Right to't; as in some countries they convey
Their treasure upon asses to their friends:
If mine be but so wise and apprehensive
As my opinion gives him to my heart,
It stays not long on thy desertless arm.
I'll make thee, ere I ha' done, not dare to wear
Any thing of mine, altho' I giv't thee freely.
Kiss it you may, and make what show you can,
But sure you carry't to a worthier man!
And so good-morrow to you! [Exit.

Greg. Hu hum, ha hum!
I ha'n't the spirit now to dash my brains out,
Nor the audacity to kill myself,
But I could cry my heart out; that's as good,
For so't be out, no matter which way't comes.
If I can die with a fillip, or depart
At hot-cockles, what is that to any man?
If there be so much death, that serves my turn there.
Every one knows the state of his own body;
No carrions kills a kite, but then again
There's cheefe will choak a daw. Time I were dead
i'faith,
If I knew which way, without hurt or danger.
I am a maiden-knight, and cannot look
Upon a naked weapon with any modesty,
Else 'twould go hard with me; and to complain
To Sir Perfidious the old knight again,
Were to be more abus'd:
Perhaps he'd beat me well, but ne'er believe me,

Enter Cunningham.

And few men die o' beating; that were lost too.
Oh, here's my friend! I'll make my moan to him.

Cunn.

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 291

Cunn. I cannot tear her memory from my heart,
That treads mine down²⁸! Was ever man so fool'd
That profess'd wit?

Greg. Oh, Cunningham!

Cunn. Sir Gregory!

The choice, the victor, the town's happy man!

Greg. 'Snigs, what dost mean? come I to thee for
comfort,

And dost abuse me too?

Cunn. Abuse you? how, Sir?

With justifying your fortune, and your joys?

Greg. Pray hold your hand, Sir! I've been bob'd
enough:

You come with a new way now, strike me merrily;
But when a man's fore beaten o' both sides already,
Then the least tap in jest goes to the guts on him.

Wilt ha' the truth? I'm made the rankest ass
That e'er was born to lordships!

Cunn. What? no, Sir!

Greg. I had not thought my body could a' yielded
All those foul scurv'y names that she has call'd me;
I wonder whence she fetch'd 'em.

Cunn. Is this credible?

Greg. She pin'd this scarf upon me²⁹, 'fore her uncle;
But, his back turn'd, she curs'd me so for wearing on't
The very brawn of mine arm has ach'd e'er since;
Yet in a manner forc'd me to wear't still,
But hop'd I should not long: If good luck serve,
I should meet one that has more wit and worth
Should take it from me; 'twas but lent to me,
And sent to him for a token.

Cunn. I conceit it! I know the man

²⁸ *Tear her memory from my heart,*

That treads mine down.] Probably, *That tears mine out.* Symphon.

²⁹ *She pin'd this scarf upon me.*] This is a manifest untruth, for
she never was out of her chamber from the time of Sir Gregory's
serenading her, to the dropping of her scarf. What should hinder us
then from reading, to save the veracity of the knight,

She pin'd this scarf upon me.

Symphon.

Why so minute? why not admit *pinn'd* metaphorically for *fastened*?

292 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

That lies in wait for't: Part with't, by all means,
In any case! you are way-laid about it.

Greg. How, Sir! way-laid?

Cunn. Pox of a scarf, say I!

I prize my friend's life 'bove a million of 'em:

You shall be rul'd, Sir; I know more than you.

Greg. If you know more than I, let me be rid on't!
'Las, 'tis not for my wearing; so she told me.

Cunn. No, no, give me't; the knave shall miss his
purpose,

And you shall live.

Greg. I would as long as I could, Sir.

Cunn. No more replies! you shall; I'll prevent this:
Pompey shall march without it.

Greg. What, is't he?

My man that was?

Cunn. Call him your deadly enemy!

You give him too fair a name, you deal too nobly;

He bears a bloody mind, a cruel foe, Sir;

I care not if he heard me.

Greg. But, do you hear, Sir?

Can it found with reason she should affect him?

Cunn. Do you talk of reason? I ne'er thought to
have heard

Such a word come from you: Reason in love?

Would you give that no doctor could e'er give?

Has not a deputy married his cook-maid?

An alderman's widow, one that was her turn-broach?

Nay, has not a great lady brought her stable

Into her chamber? lay with her horse-keeper?

Greg. Did ever love play such jade's tricks, Sir?

Cunn. Oh, thousands, thousands.

Beware a sturdy clown, e'er while you live, Sir:

'Tis like a housewifery in most shires about us:

You shall ha' farmers' widows wed thin gentlemen

Much like yourself, but put 'em to no stress;

What work can they do, with small trap-stick legs?

They keep clowns to stop gaps and drive in pegs,

A drudgery fit for hinds. E'en back again, Sir!

You're

You're safest at returning.

Greg. Think you so, Sir?

Cunn. But how came this clown to be call'd Pompey first?

Greg. Pish! one goodman Cæsar, a pump-maker, kerf'en'd him;

Pompey he writes himself, but his right name's Pumpey, And stunk too when I had him; now he's crank.

Cunn. I'm glad I know so much to quell his pride, Sir. Walk you still that way; I'll make use of this To resolve all my doubts, and place this favour On some new mistress, only for a try;

And if it meet my thoughts, I'll swear 'tis I. [*Exit.*]

Greg. Is Pompey grown so malapert, so frampel³⁰? The only cutter about ladies' honours,

Enter Oldcraft.

And his blade soonest out?

Oldc. Now, what's the news, Sir?

Greg. I dare not say but good:—Oh, excellent good, Sir!

Oldc. I hope now you're resolv'd she loves you, knight?

³⁰ *Frampel.*] In the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Mrs. Quickly says of Mrs. Ford, That 'she leads a very *frampold* life' with her husband; and Dr. Johnson says, that the word occurs in Hacket's *Life of Williams*, and there signifies a *peevish troublesome fellow*. Mr. Steevens adds the following note:

In the *Roaring Girl*, a comedy, 1611, I meet with a word, which, though differently spelt, appears to be the same.

'*Lax.* Coachman.

'*Coach.* Anon, Sir!

'*Lax.* Are we fitted with good *phrampell* jades?'

Ray, among his South and East country words, says, that *frampald*, or *frampard*, signifies *fretful, peevish, cross, froward*. As *froward*, (he add:) comes from *from*, so may *frampard*.

Nash, in his *Praise of the Red Herring*, 1599, speaking of Leander, says, 'the churlish *frampold* waves gave him his belly full of fish-broth.'

So in the *Inner Temple Masque*, by Middleton, 1619, 'tis so '*frampole*, the Puritans will never yield to it.' So in the *Blind Beggar of Bethnall-Green*, by John Day, 'I think the fellow's '*frampell*, &c.' Again, in Ben Jonson's *Tale of a Tub*,

'I pray thee grow not *frampul* now.' *Steevens.*

294 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Greg. Cuds me, what else, Sir? that's not to do now.

Oldc. You would not think how desperately you
anger'd me,

When you belied her goodness: Oh, you vex'd me
Even to a palsey.

Greg. What a thing was that, Sir!

Enter Niece.

Niece. 'Tis, that 'tis,

As I have hope of sweetness, the scarf's gone!

Worthy wife friend, I dote upon thy cunning:

We two shall be well match'd; our issue male sure

Will be born counsellors. Is't possible?

Thou shalt have another token out of hand for't;

Nay, since the way's found, pity thou shouldst want,
i'faith.—

Oh, my best joy and dearest!

Oldc. Well said, Niece!

So violent 'fore your uncle? What will you do
In secret then?

Greg. Marry, call me slave and rascal.

Niece. Your scarf—the scarf I gave you——

Oldc. Mass, that's true, Niece!

I ne'er thought upon that: The scarf she gave you, Sir!
What, dumb? no answer from you? the scarf!

Greg. I was way-laid about it, my life threaten'd;
Life's life, scarf's but a scarf, and so I parted from't.

Niece. Unfortunate woman! my first favour too?

Oldc. Will you be still an ass? no reconciliation
'Twixt you and Wit? Are you so far fall'n out,
You'll never come together? I tell you true,
I'm very lousily asham'd on you;
That's the worst shame that can be.—

Thus baiting on him, now his heart's hook'd in,
I'll make him, ere I ha' done, take her with nothing.
I love a man that lives by his wits, as life³¹!—

Nay, leave, sweet Niece; 'tis but a scarf; let it go!

³¹ *I love a man that lives by his wits alive.]* Corrected by
Symphon.

Niece.

Niece. The going of it never grieves me, Sir;
It is the manner, the manner——

Greg. Oh, dissembling marmasets!
If I durst speak, or could be believ'd
When I speak, what a tale could I tell,
To make hair stand upright now!

Niece. Nay, Sir,
At your request you shall perceive, uncle,
With what renewing love I forgive this:
Here's a fair diamond, Sir; I'll try how long
You can keep that.

Greg. Not very long; you know't too,
Like a cunning witch as you are!

Niece. You're best let him ha' that too.

Greg. So I were, I think; there were no living else.
I thank you, as you have handled the matter.

Oldc. Why, this is musical now, and Tuesday next
Shall tune your instruments; that's the day set.

Niece. A match, good uncle!

Oldc. Sir, you hear me too?

Greg. Oh, very well; I'm for you.

Niece. Whate'er you hear, you know my mind!

[*Exeunt Oldcraft and Niece.*]

Greg. Ay, a pox on't, too well! If I don't wonder
how

We two shall come together, I'm a bear-whelp.
He talks of Tuesday next, as familiarly
As if we lov'd one another; but 'tis as unlikely
To me, as 'twas seven year before I saw her.
I shall try his cunning; it may be he has a way
Was never yet thought on, and it had need
To be such a one; for all that I can think on
Will never do't. I look to have this diamond
Taken from me very speedily; therefore I'll take it
Off o' my finger, for, if it be seen,
I shall be way-laid for that too.

[*Exit.*]

A C T IV.

Enter Oldcraft and Wittypate.

Oldc. O H, torture, torture! Thou carry'st a sting
i'thy tail!

Thou never brought'st good news i'thy life yet;
And that's an ill quality, leave it when thou wilt.

Witty. Why, you receive a blessing the wrong way,
Sir,

Call you not this good news, to save at once, Sir,
Your credit and your kinsman's life together?
Would it not vex your peace, and gall your worth,
T'have one of your name hang'd?

Oldc. Peace; no such words, boy!

Witty. Be thankful for the blessing of prevention then,

Oldc. Let me see!

There was none hang'd out of our house since Brute;
I ha' search'd both Stow and Hollingshead.

Witty. Oh, Sir!

Oldc. I'll see what Polychronicon says anon too³².

Witty. 'Twas a miraculous fortune that I heard on't!

³² *I'll see what Polychronicon says anon too.*] By *Polychronicon* he means one Higden, a monk of Chester, who wrote a large volume of History under that title. Brady, in the Catalogue of Writers from whom he compiled his History of England, gives us this account of him: 'Ranalphus Cestrensis had the reputation of an industrious and diligent writer by our ancestors, especially Leland. He wrote from the beginning of things, and brought down his history (Latin) to the end of Edward the Third's reign, 1377, or perhaps only to the year 1344, as Mr. Selden observes.' As the *Polychronicon* is a book not to be met with every where, I will give my reader a specimen of our Ranalphus's industry and diligence from the translation of his Latin work by one de Trevisa. In book the first, tho' I can't name the page or the chapter, he gives this description of the Sicilian Cicade. 'Cicades birds that singen well, in the best wise, and they have a pipe open under their throat, and singen better when dead than while they be alive, therefore herdes of that londe bihede them to have the sweeter song.'

Symphon.

Oldc.

Oldc. I would th'hadst never heard on't!

Witty. That's true too,

So it had ne'er been done. To see the luck on't!
He was ev'n brought to justice Aurum's threshold;
There had flown forth a mittimus straight for Newgate!
And note the fortune too! Sessions a Thursday,
Jury cull'd out a Friday, judgment a Saturday,
Dungeon a Sunday, Tyburn a Monday:
Misery's quotidian ague, when't begins once,
Every day pulls him, 'till he pull his last.

Oldc. No more, I say! 'tis an ill theme. Where
left you him?

Witty. He's in the constable's hands below i'th'
hall, Sir,

Poor gentleman, and his accuser with him.

Oldc. What's he?

Witty. A judge's son, 'tis thought; so much the
worse too;

He'll hang his enemy, and it shall cost him nothing;
That's a great privilege.

Oldc. Within there!

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Sir?

Oldc. Call up the folks i'th' hall,—I had such hope
on him,

For a scholar too, a thing thou ne'er wast fit for;
Therefore erected all my joys in him,
Got a Welch benefice in reversion for him,
Dean of Cardigan; he has his grace already,
He can marry and bury,
Yet ne'er a hair on's face, like a French vicar;

*Enter Credulous, Sir Ruinous (as a constable), and
Lady Ruinous (as a man).*

And does he bring such fruits to town with him?
A thief at his first lighting?—Oh, good den to you!

Witty. Nay, sweet Sir! you're so vex'd now, you'll
grieve him,

And

298 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

And hurt yourself.

Oldc. Away! I'll hear no counsel.—

Come you but once in seven year to your uncle,
And at that time must you be brought home too?
And by a constable?

Witty. Oh, speak low, Sir;
Remember your own credit! You profess
You love a man o'wit; begin at home, Sir;
Express it i' yourself.

L. Ruin. Nay, master constable,
Shew yourself a wise man, 'gainst your nature too.

Ruin. Sir, no dish-poridgement, we have brought
home

As good men as ye.

Oldc. Out! a North-Britain constable? that tongue
Will publish all, it speaks so broad already.
Are you the gentleman?

L. Ruin. The unfortunate one, Sir,
That fell into the power of merciless thieves,
Whereof this fellow, (whom I'd call your kinsman
As little as I could, for the fair reverence
I owe to fame and years) was the prime villain.

Oldc. A wicked prime!

Witty. Nay, not so loud, sweet father!

L. Ruin. The rest are fled, but I shall meet with 'em:
Hang one of 'em I will certain, (I ha' sworn it)
And 'twas my luck to light upon this first.

Oldc. A Cambridge man for this? these your de-
grees, Sir?

Nine years at university for this fellowship?

Witty. Take your voice lower, dear Sir!

Oldc. What's your loss, Sir?

L. Ruin. That which
Offends me to repeat; the money's whole, Sir,
'Tis in the constable's hands there, a seal'd hundred;
But I will not receive't.

Oldc. No? not the money, Sir,
Having confess'd 'tis all?

L. Ruin. 'Tis all the money, Sir,

But

But 'tis not all I lost; for when they bound me,
They took a diamond hung at my shirt-string,
Which fear of life made me forget to hide;
It being the sparkling witness of a contract
'Twixt a great lawyer's daughter and myself.

Witty. I told you what he was,—What does the
diamond

Concern my cousin, Sir?

L. Ruin. No more did the money;
But he shall answer all now.

Witty. There's your conscience!
It shews from whence you sprung.

L. Ruin. Sprung? I had leap'd a thief,
Had I leap'd some of your alliance,

Witty. Slave!

L. Ruin. You prevent me still.

Oldc. 'Slid, son, are you mad?

L. Ruin. Come, come, I'll take a legal course.

Oldc. Will you undo us all?—What's your demand,
Sir?—

Now we're in's danger too!

L. Ruin. A hundred mark, Sir;
I will not bate a doit.

Witty. A hundred rascals!

L. Ruin. Sir, find 'em out in your own blood, and
take 'em.

Witty. Go, take your course; follow the law, and
spare not.

Oldc. Does fury make you drunk? Know you what
you say?

Witty. A hundred dogs-dungs! do your worst.

Oldc. You do,

I'm sure: Who is loud now?

Witty. What, his own asking?

Oldc. Not in such a case?

Witty. You shall have but threescore pound, spite
a' your teeth;

I'll see you hang'd first!

Oldc. And what's seven pound more, man,

That

300 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

That all this coil's about?—Stay!—I say he shall ha't.

Witty. It is your own, you may do what you please with it;

Pardon my zeal! I would ha' sav'd you money.

Give him all his own asking?

Oldc. What's that to you, Sir?

Be sparing of your own! Teach me to pinch

In such a case as this? Go, go; live by your wits, go!

Witty. I practise all I can.

Oldc. Follow you me, Sir;

And, master constable, come from the knave,

And be a witness of a full recompense.

Witty. Pray stop the constable's mouth, whate'er you do, Sir.

Oldc. Yet again?

As if I meant not to do that myself,

Without your counsel? As for you, precious kinsman,

Your first year's fruits in Wales shall go to rack for this!

You lie not in my house; I'll pack you out,

And pay for your lodging rather.

[*Exeunt Oldc. Ruin. and L. Ruin.*]

Witty. Oh, fy, cousin!

These are ill courses; you a scholar too!

Cred. I was drawn into't most unfortunately,
By filthy debosht company.

Witty. Ay, ay, ay;

'Tis even the spoil of all our youth in England.

What were they? gentlemen?

Cred. Faith, so like, some of 'em,
They were ev'n the worse again.

Witty. Hum!

Cred. Great tobacco-whiffers;
They would go near to rob with a pipe in their mouths.

Witty. What! no?

Cred. Faith, leave it, cousin, because my rascals use it.

Witty. So they do meat and drink; must worthy gentlemen

Refrain their food for that? an honest man

May eat of the same pig some parson dines with,

A law-

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 301

A lawyer and a fool feed off one woodcock,
 Yet one ne'er the simpler, t'other ne'er the wiser;
 'Tis not meat, drink, or smoke, dish, cup, or pipe,
 Co-operates to the making of a knave;
 'Tis the condition makes a slave a slave:
 There's London philosophy for you! I tell you, cousin,
 You cannot be too cautelous, nice, or dainty,
 In your society here, especially
 When you come raw from the university,
 Before the world has harden'd you a little;
 For as a butter'd loaf is a scholar's breakfast there,
 So a poach'd scholar is a cheater's dinner here:
 I ha' known seven of 'em supp'd up at a meal.

Cred. Why a poach'd scholar?

Witty. 'Cause he pours himself forth,
 And all his secrets, at the first acquaintance;
 Never so crafty to be eaten i'th' shell,
 But is out-strip'd of all he has at first,
 And goes down glib; he's swallow'd with sharp wit,
 'Stead of wine vinegar.

Cred. I shall think, cousin,
 O' your poach'd scholar, while I live.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Master Credulous,
 Your uncle wills you to forbear the house:
 You must with me; I'm charg'd to see you plac'd
 In some new lodging about Thieving-Lane.
 What the conceit's I know not; but he commands you
 To be seen here no more, 'till you hear further.

Cred. Here's a strange welcome, Sir!

Witty. This is the world, cousin,
 When a man's fame's once poison'd! Fare thee well,
 lad!

[*Exeunt Cred. and Serv.*]

This is the happiest cheat I e'er claim'd share in;
 It has a two-fold fortune, gets me coin,
 And puts him out of grace that stood between me,
 My father's Cambridge jewel, much suspected
 To be his heir; now there's a bar in's hopes.

Enter

Enter Ruinous and Lady Ruinous.

Ruin. It chinks; make haste!

L. Ruin. The Goat at Smithfield-Pens. [Exeunt.

Enter Cunningham.

Witty. Zo, zo, zufficient!—Master Cunningham?
I never have ill luck when I meet a wit.

Cunn. A wit's better to meet than to follow then,
For I ha' none so good I can commend yet;
But commonly men unfortunate to themselves,
Are luckiest to their friends; and so may I be.

Witty. I run o'er so much worth, going but in haste
from you,

All my deliberate friendship cannot equal.

Cunn. 'Tis but to shew, that you can place sometimes

Enter Mirabel.

Your modesty a-top of all your virtues. [Exit Witty.
This gentleman may pleasure me yet again.
I am so haunted with this broad-brim'd hat
Of the last progress block, with the young hat-band,
Made for a sucking devil of two years old,
I know not where to turn myself.

Mir. Sir!

Cunn. More torture?

Mir. 'Tis rumour'd that you love me.

Cunn. O' my troth, gentlewoman,
Rumour's as false a knave as ever pifs'd then;
Pray tell him so from me! I cannot feign
With a sweet gentlewoman, I must deal downright.

Mir. I heard, tho', you dissembled with my aunt, Sir;
And that makes me more confident.

Cunn. There's no falsehood,
But pays us our own some way!—I confess
I feign'd with her, ('twas for a weightier purpose)
But not with thee, I swear.

Mir. Nor I with you then,
Altho' my aunt enjoin'd me to dissemble

To

To right her spleen : I love you faithfully.

Cunn. 'Light, this is worse than 'twas.

Mir. I find such worth in you,
I cannot, nay, I dare not dally with you,
For fear the flame consume me.

Cunn. Here's fresh trouble !

This drives me to my conscience ; for 'tis foul
To injure one that deals directly with me.

Mir. I crave but such a truth from your love, Sir,
As mine brings you, and that's proportionable.

Cunn. A good geometrician, 'shrew my heart !
Why, are you out o' your wits, pretty plump gentle-
woman,

You talk so desperately ? 'tis a great happiness

Love has made one on's wiser than another,

We should be both cast away else :

Yet I love gratitude ; I must requite you,

I shall be sick else : But to give you me—

A thing you must not take, if you mean to live,

For a' my troth I hardly can myself ;

No wise physician will prescribe me for you.

Alas, your state's weak ; you had need of cordials,

Some rich electuary, made of a son and heir,

An elder brother, in a cullis, whole ;

It must be some wealthy Gregory, boil'd to a jelly,

That must restore you to the state of new gowns,

French ruffs, and mutable head-tires.

Mir. But, where is he, Sir ?

One that's so rich will ne'er wed me with nothing.

Cunn. Then see thy conscience, and thy wit together !

Wouldst thou have me then, that have nothing neither ?

What say you to Fop Gregory the First yonder ?

Will you acknowledge your time amply recompens'd,

Full satisfaction upon love's record,

Without any more suit, if I combine you ?

Mir. Yes, by this honest kiss.

Cunn. You're a wise client,

To pay your fee before-hand ; but all do so :

You know the worst already, that's the best too.

Mir.

304 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Mir. I know he is a fool.

Cunn. You're shrewdly hurt then !

This is your comfort ; your great, wisest women
Pick their first husband still out of that house,
And some will have 'em to chuse, if they bury twenty.

Mir. I'm of their minds, that like him for a first
husband

To run youth's race with ; it is very pleasant ;
But when I'm old, I'd always wish a wiser.

Cunn. You may have me by that time. For this
first business,

Rest upon my performance !

Mir. With all thankfulness.

Cunn. I have a project you must aid me in too.

Mir. You bind me to all lawful action, Sir.

Cunn. Pray wear this scarf about you.

Mir. I conjecture now——

Cunn. There's a court principle for't, one office
must help another ;

As for example, for your cast o' manchets out o'th'
pantry,

I'll allow you a goose out of the kitchen.

Mir. 'Tis very sociably done, Sir : Farewell, Per-
formance !

I shall be bold to call you so.

[*Exit.*

Cunn. Do, sweet Confidence !

Enter Sir Gregory.

If I can match my two broad-brim'd hats——

'Tis he ! I know the maggot by his head ;

Now shall I learn news of him. My precious chief !

Greg. I have been seeking for you i'th' bowling-green,

Enquir'd at Nettleton's and Anthony's ordinary ;

It has vex'd me to th' heart !

Look, I've a diamond here, and it can't find
A master.

Cunn. No ? that's hard, i'faith.

Greg. It does

Belong to somebody : A mischief on him,

I would

I would he had it; does but trouble me;
And she that sent it is so waspish too,
There's no returning to her 'till't be gone.

Cunn. Oh, ho! Ah, firrah, are you come?

Greg. What's that, friend?

Cunn. Do you note that corner sparkle?

Greg. Which? which? which, Sir?

Cunn. At the West end o'th' collet³³.

Greg. Oh, I see't now.

Cunn. 'Tis an apparent mark: This is the stone, Sir,
That so much blood is threaten'd to be shed for.

Greg. I pray——

Cunn. A tun at least.

Greg. They must not find it in me then; they must
Go where 'tis to be had.

Cunn. 'Tis well it came to my hands first, Sir Gregory;
I know where this must go.

Greg. Am I discharg'd on't?

Cunn. My life for yours now!

[*Draws.*

Greg. What now?

Cunn. 'Tis discretion, Sir;

I'll stand upon my guard all the while I ha't.

Greg. 'Troth thou tak'st too much danger on thee still,
To preserve me alive.

Cunn. 'Tis a friend's duty, Sir.

Nay, by a toy that I've late thought upon,
I'll undertake to get your mistress for you.

Greg. Thou wilt not? wilt?

Cunn. Contract her by a trick, Sir,
When she least thinks on't.

Greg. There's the right way to't;
For if she think on't once, she'll never do't.

Cunn. She does abuse you still then?

Greg. A pox! damnably,
Every time worse than other; yet her uncle
Thinks the day holds a Tuesday: Say it did, Sir,

³³ *West end o'th' collar.*] There only wants the change of a letter,
to make this passage run like the original, *viz.* o'th' collet; *i. e.*
beizill or socket in which the diamond was set.

Symphon.

366 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

She's so familiarly us'd to call me *rascal*,
 She'll quite forget to wed me by my own name;
 And then that marriage cannot hold in law, you know.

Cunn. Will you leave all to me?

Greg. Who should I leave it to?

Cunn. 'Tis our luck to love nieces; I love a niece too.

Greg. I would you did, i' faith!

Cunn. But mine's a kind wretch.

Greg. Ay, marry, Sir; I would mine were so too!

Cunn. No *rascal* comes in her mouth.

Greg. Troth, and mine
 Has little else in hers.

Cunn. Mine sends me tokens,
 All the world knows not on.

Greg. Mine gives me tokens too,
 Very fine tokens; but I dare not wear 'em.

Cunn. Mine's kind in secret.

Greg. And there mine's a hell-cat.

Cunn. We have a day set too.

Greg. 'Slid, so have we, man;
 But there's no sign of ever coming together.

Cunn. I'll tell thee who it is; th' old woman's niece.

Greg. Is't she?

Cunn. I would your luck had been no worse for
 mildness;

But mum; no more words of it to your lady!

Greg. Foh!

Cunn. No blabbing, as you love me.

Greg. None of our blood
 Were ever babblers.

Cunn. Prithee convey this letter to her;
 But at any hand let not your mistress see't!

Greg. Yet again, Sir?

Cunn. There is a jewel in't!

The very art would make her dote upon't.

Greg. Say you so?

And she shall see it for that trick only.

Cunn. Remember but your mistress, and all's well.

Greg. Nay, if I do not, hang me!

[Exit.
Cunn.

Cunn. I believe you.—

This is the only way to return a token :

I know he will do't now, 'cause he's charg'd to th'
contrary.

He's the nearest kin to a woman, of a thing
Made without substance, that a man can find again.
Some petticoat begot him, I'll be whipt else,
Engendring with an old pair of pain'd hose³⁴;
Lying in some hot chamber o'er the kitchen;
The very steam bred him.

He never grew where *rem in re* e'er came ;
The generation of a hundred such
Cannot make a man stand in a white sheet,
For 'tis no act in law ; nor can a constable
Pick out a bawdy business for Bridewell in't.

Enter Pompey (as a gallant).

A lamentable case !

He's got with a man's urine, like a mandrake.—
How now ? ha ? what prodigious bravery's this ?
A most preposterous gallant ! the doublet fits
As if it mock'd the breeches.

Pompey. Save you, Sir !

Cunn. H' has put his tongue in the fine suit of words
too !

Pompey. How does the party ?

Cunn. Takes me for a scrivener.—

Which of the parties ?

Pompey. Hum ! Simplicity betide thee !—

I would fain hear o' th' party ; I'd be loath to go
Further with her ; honour is not a thing
To be dallied withal, no more is reputation,
No, nor fame, I take it ; I must not have her wrong'd
When I'm abroad ; my party is not to be compell'd
With any party in an oblique way ;
'Tis very dangerous to deal with women ;

³⁴ *With an old pair of pain'd hose.*] Probably pain'd hose.

308 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

May prove a lady too, but shall be nameless ;
I'll bite my tongue out, ere it prove a traitor.

Cunn. Upon my life, I know her !

Pompey. Not by me ;

Know what you can, talk a whole day with me,
You're ne'er the wiser ; she comes not from these lips.

Cunn. The old knight's Niece.

Pompey. 'Slid, he has got her ! Pox of his heart that
told him !

Can nothing be kept secret !—Let me entreat you
To use her name as little as you can, tho'.

Cunn. 'Twill be small pleasure, Sir, to use her name.

Pompey. I had intelligence in my solemn walks,
'Twixt Paddington and Pancridge, of a scarf
Sent for a token, and a jewel follow'd ;
But I acknowledge not the receipt of any ;
However it is carried, believe me, Sir,
Upon my reputation, I receiv'd none !

Cunn. What, neither scarf nor jewel ?

Pompey. 'Twould be seen
Somewhere about me, you may well think that ;
I have an arm for a scarf, as others have,
An ear to hang a jewel too, and that is more
Than some men have, my betters a great deal,
I must have restitution, where-e'er it lights.

Cunn. And reason good.

Pompey. For all these tokens, Sir,
Pass i' my name.

Cunn. It cannot otherwise be.

Pompey. Sent to a worthy friend !

Cunn. Ay, that's to thee.

Pompey. I'm wrong'd under that title.

Cunn. I dare swear thou art :

'Tis nothing but Sir Gregory's circumvention,
His envious spite ; when thou'rt at Paddington,
He meets the gifts at Pancridge.

Pompey. Ah, false knight !

False both to honour, and the law of arms.

Cunn. What wilt thou say if I be reveng'd for thee,
Thou

Thou sit as witness ?

Pompey. I should laugh in state then.

Cunn. I'll fob him ; here's my hand.

Pompey. I shall be as glad as any man alive
To see him well fobb'd, Sir. But, now you talk of
fobbing,

I wonder the lady sends not for me according to promise:
I ha' kept out o' town these two days, o' purpose
To be sent for : I am almost starv'd with walking.

Cunn. Walking gets men a stomach.

Pompey. 'Tis most true, Sir ;
I may speak it by experience, for I ha' got
A stomach six times, and lost it again,
As often as a traveller from Chelsea
Shall lose the sight of Paul's, and get it again.

Cunn. Go to her, man.

Pompey. Not for a million !
Enfringe my oath ? There's a toy call'd a vow
Has past between us, a poor trifle, Sir !
Pray do me the part and office of a gentleman :
If you chance to meet a footman by the way,
In orange-tawny ribbands, running before
An empty coach, with a buzzard i'th' poop on't,
Direct him and his horses toward the New-River,
By Islington ; there they shall have me looking
Upon the pipes, and whistling. [Exit.

Cunn. A very
Good note ! This Love makes us all monkies.
But to my work : Scarf first ? and now a diamond ?
These should be sure signs of her affection's truth ;
Yet I'll go forward with my surer proof. [Exit.

Enter Niece and Gregory.

Niece. Is't possible ?

Greg. Nay, here's his letter too ;
There's a fine jewel in't, therefore I brought it to you.

Niece. You tedious mongril ! Is it not enough
To grace thee, to receive this from thy hand,
A thing which makes me almost sick to do,

310 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

But you must talk too?

Greg. I ha' done.

Niece. Fall back!

Yet backer, backer yet! You unmannerly puppy,
Do you not see I'm going about to read it?

Greg. Nay, these are golden days! now I stay by't;
She was wont not to endure me in her sight at all;
The world mends, I see that.

Niece. What an ambiguous
Supercription's here! 'To the best of nieces.'
Why, that title may be mine, and more than her's:
Sure I much wrong the neatness of his art!
'Tis certain sent to me; and to requite
My cunning in the carriage of my tokens,
Us'd the same fop for his.

Greg. She nodded now to me; 'twill come in time.

Niece. What's here? An entire ruby, cut into a heart?
And this the word, *Istud amoris opus*?

Greg. Yes, yes;

I have heard him say, that Love's the best stone-cutter.

Niece. Why, thou saucy issue of some travelling
fow-gelder,

What makes love in thy mouth? Is it a thing
That ever will concern thee? I do wonder
How thou dar'st think on't! Hast thou ever hope
To come i' the same room where lovers are,
And 'scape unbrain'd with one of their velvet slippers?

Greg. Love-tricks break out I see: An you talk of
slippers once,

It is not far off to bed-time.

Niece. Is it possible thou canst laugh yet?
I would ha' undertook to ha' kill'd a spider
With less venom far than I have spit at thee.

Greg. You must conceive,
A knight's another manner o' piece of flesh.

Niece. Back, owl's face!

Oldc. [*within.*] Do, do.

Niece. 'Tis my uncle's voice, that.—
Why keep you so far off, Sir Gregory?

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 311.

Are you afraid, Sir, to come near your mistress?

Greg. Is the proud heart come down? I look'd for this still.

Niece. He comes not this way yet.—Away, you dog-whelp!

Would you offer to come near me, tho' I said so?

I'll make you understand my mind in time!

You're running in greedily³⁵, like a hound to his breakfast,

That chops in head and all to beguile his fellows;

I'm to be eaten, Sir, with grace and leisure,

Behaviour and discourse, things that ne'er trouble you:

After I have pelted you sufficiently,

I tro you'll learn more manners.

Greg. I am wondring

Still when we two shall come together. Tuesday's

At hand, but I'm as far off as I was

At first, I swear.

Enter Guardianess.

Guard. Now, Cunningham, I'll be reveng'd at large.

Lady, what was but all this while suspicion

Is truth full blown now; my niece wears your scarf.

Niece. Ha!

Guard. Do but follow me, I'll place you instantly
Where you shall see her courted by Cunningham.

Niece. I go with greediness! We long for things
That break our hearts sometimes; there's Pleasure's
misery. [*Exe. Niece and Guard.*]

Greg. Where are those gad-flies going? to some
junket now.

That same old humble-bee³⁶ toles the young one forth
To sweetmeats after kind: Let 'em look to't

The thing you wot on be not miss'd or gone!

I bring a maidenhead, and I look for one. [*Exit.*]

³⁵ Your running in greedily.] Corrected by Symphon.

³⁶ Some old humble-bee.] Corrected in 1750.

Enter Cunningham (seemingly in discourse with a mask'd gentlewoman, which is a puppet, in a broad hat, and scarfed), and Niece at another door.

Cunn. Yes, yes.

Niece. Too manifest now; the scarf and all!

Cunn. It cannot be; you're such a fearful soul.

Niece. I'll give her cause of fear ere I part from her!

Cunn. Will you say so? Is't not your aunt's desire too?

Niece. What a dissembling crone's that? She'll forswear't now.

Cunn. I see my project takes; yonder's the grace on't.

Niece. Who would put confidence in wit again?

I'm plagu'd for my ambition, to desire

A wise man for a husband! and I see

Fate will not have us go beyond our stint:

We are allow'd but one dish, and that's woodcock.

It keeps up wit to make us friends and servants of;

And thinks any thing's good enough to make us husbands.

Oh, that whore's hat o' thine, o'th' riding block,

A shade for lecherous kisses!

Cunn. Make you doubt on't?

Is not my love of force?

Niece. Yes; me it forces

To tear that forcerous strumpet from thy embraces.

Cunn. Lady?

Niece. Oh, thou hast wrong'd the exquisitest love—

Cunn. What mean you, lady?

Niece. Mine; you'll answer for't!

Cunn. Alas, what seek you?

Niece. Sir, mine own, with loss.

Cunn. You shall——

Niece. I never made so hard a bargain.

Cunn. Sweet lady!

Niece. Unjust man, let my wrath reach her,

As you owe Virtue duty! [*Cunn. falls on purpose.*]

Your cause trips you.

Now, minion, you shall feel what love's rage is,

Before

Before you taste the pleasure. Smile you, false Sir?

Cunn. How can I chuse, to see what pains you take,
Upon a thing will never thank you for't?

Niece. How!

Cunn. See what things you women be, lady!
When cloaths are ta'en for the best part of you.
This was to shew you, when you think I love you ~~not~~,
How you're deceiv'd still; there the moral lies:
'Twas a trap set to catch you, and the only bait
To take a lady nibbling is fine cloaths:
Now I dare boldly thank you for your love;
I'm pretty well resolv'd in't by this fit,
For a jealous ague always ushers it.

Niece. Now blessings still maintain this wit of thine!
And I've an excellent fortune coming in thee:
Bring nothing else, I charge thee.

Cunn. Not a groat, I warrant you.

Niece. Thou shalt be worthily welcome, take my
faith for't;

Next opportunity shall make us ³⁷.

Cunn. The old gentlewoman has fool'd her revenge
sweetly.

Niece. 'Las, 'tis her part; she knows her place so
well yonder!

Always when women jump upon threescore,
Love shoves 'em from the chamber to the door.

Cunn. Thou art a precious she-wit! [Exeunt.]

³⁷ *Next opportunity shall make us.*] Here the loss of a monosyllable destroys the measure and injures the sense. I read,

Next opportunity shall make us one.

Seward.

There is certainly very complete *sense* without the monosyllable.

A C T V.

Enter Cunningham (at one door), Wittypate, Ruinous, Lady Ruinous, and Priscian (at the other).

Cunn. FRIEND, met in the harvest of our designs!
Not a thought but's busy.

Witty. I knew it, man;
And that made me provide these needful reapers,
Hooks, rakers, gleaners: We will sing it home
With a melodious hornpipe. This is the bond;
That as we further in your great affair,
You'll suffer us to glean, pick up for crumbs³⁸,
And if we snatch a handful from the sheaf,
You will not look a churl upon us.

Cunn. Friend,
We'll share the sheaves of gold; only the love acre
Shall be peculiar.

Witty. Much good do you, Sir.
Away! you know your way, and your stay; get you
The music ready, while we prepare the dancers.

Ruin. We are a consort of ourselves.

Pris. And can strike up lustily.

Witty. You must bring Sir Fop.

Cunn. That's perfect enough.

Ruin. Bring all the fops you can, the more the
better fare;

So the proverb runs backwards. [*Exe. Ruin. and Pris.*

L. Ruin. I'll bring the ladies.

[*Exit.*

Witty. Do so first, and then

³⁸ You'll suffer us to glean, pick up for crumbs.] This reading dis-
continues the metaphor, as well as disturbs the sense; both may easily
be amended, by reading thus;

— to glean, pick up few corns

Symphon.

Corns certainly pursues the metaphor best; but the old reading
being sense, should not be arbitrarily altered, though for the better;
fidelity being the first duty of an editor.

The fops will follow. I must to my father;
He must make one. [Exit.

Enter two Servants with a banquet.

Cunn. While I dispatch a business with the knight,
And I go with you. Well said! I thank you!
This small banquet will furnish our few guests
With taste and state enough. One reach my gown;
The action craves it, rather than the weather.

1 Serv. There is one stays to speak with you, Sir.

Cunn. What is he?

1 Serv. Faith, I know not what, Sir; a fool, I think,
That some broker's shop has made half a gentleman:
H'has the name of a worthy too.

Cunn. Pompey? is't not?

1 Serv. That's he, Sir.

Cunn. Alas, poor fellow, prithee enter him;

Enter second Servant with a gown.

He will need too³⁹. He shall serve for a witness. Oh,
Gramercy! if my friend Sir Gregory comes,

Enter Pompey.

(You know him) entertain him kindly. Oh, master
Pompey!

How is't, man?

Pompey. 'Snails, I'm almost starv'd with love,
And cold, and one thing or other. Has not my lady
Sent for me yet?

Cunn. Not that I hear: Sure some
Unfriendly messenger's employ'd betwixt you.

Pompey. I was ne'er so cold in my life: In my
conscience,

³⁹ *Alas, poor fellow, prithee enter him, he will need too.*] Tho' Pompey did need victuals, yet the adverb *too* shews *need* to be a corruption for *sted* or *speed*. And the original ran, I fancy, very near the text of this present edition [i. e. *sted*].

Seward.

We think there are in our Authors, and others, instances of a construction, by which *he will need too* may signify *he will be needed*.

I have

316 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

I have been seven miles in length, along the New-River ;

I have seen a hundred stickle-bags ; I don't think but There's gudgeons too : 'Twill ne'er be a true water.

Cunn. Why think you so ?

Pompey. I warrant you I told

A thousand miller's thumbs in it. I'll make a little Bold with your sweetmeats.

Cunn. And welcome, Pompey !

Pompey. 'Tis a strange thing I have no taste in any thing.

Cunn. Oh, that's Love ; that distastes any thing but itself.

Pompey. 'Tis worse than cheese in that point. May not a man

Break his word with a lady ? I could find In my heart and my hose too.

Cunn. By no means, Sir ;

That breaks all the laws of Love.

Pompey. Well, I'll ne'er pass my word Without my deed, to lady, while I live again. I would fain recover my taste.

Cunn. Well, I have news to tell you.

Pompey. Good news, Sir ?

Cunn. Happy news ! I help you away with a rival, Your master's bestow'd —

Pompey. Where, for this plumb's sake —

Cunn. Nay, listen me.

Pompey. I warrant you, Sir ; I have two ears to one mouth :

I hear more than I eat ; I'd never row By Queen-Hithe while I lived else.

Cunn. I have

A wife for him, and thou shalt witness the contract.

Pompey. The old one, I hope⁴⁰ ; 'tis not the lady ?

Cunn. Choke him first ! It is one which thou shalt see ;

⁴⁰ *The old one, I hope.*] By this expression here and a little below, the Clown hopes that the old Guardianess was the wife intended, by Cunningham, for Sir Gregory.

Symphon.

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 317

See him, see him deceiv'd, see the deceit, only
The injunction is, you shall smile with modesty.

Pompey. I'll simper i' faith, as cold as I am yet,
The old one, I hope!

Enter Servant.

Serv. Sir, here's Sir Gregory.

Cunn. Udsb, shelter, shelter! If you be seen,
All's ravell'd out again: Stand there private,
And you will find the very opportunity
To call you forth, and place you at the table.

Enter Gregory.

You are welcome, Sir! This banquet
Will serve, when it is crown'd with such a dainty
As you expect, and must have.

Greg. Tush, these sweetmeats
Are but fauce to that. Well, if there be
Any honesty, or true word in a dream,
She is mine own, nay, and chang'd extremely,
Not the same woman.

Cunn. Who? not the lady?

Greg. No, not
To me; the edge of her tongue is taken off,
Gives me very good words; turn'd up-side down
to me;

And we live as quietly as two tortoises:
If she hold on, as she began in my dream——

Cunn. Nay, if Love send forth such predictions,
You are bound to believe'em. There's the watch-word

[*Soft musick.*

Of her coming; to your practis'd part now!
If you hit it, *Æquus Cupido nobis.*

[*Both go into the gown.*

Greg. I'll warrant you, Sir, I will give arms to
Your gentry: Look you forward to your business,
I am an eye behind you; place her in that
Chair, and let me alone to grope her out!

Enter

Enter Mirabel.

Cunn. Silence!—Lady, your sweet presence illustrates

This homely roof, and as coarse entertainment;
But where affections are both host and guest,
They cannot meet unkindly. Please you sit!
Your something long stay made me unmannerly,
To place before you (know him!) this friend here;
(He is my guest) and more especially,
That this our meeting might not be too single,
Without a witness to't.

Mir. I came not unresolv'd, Sir:
And when our hands are clasp'd in that firm faith
Which I expect from you, Fame shall be bold
To speak the loudest on it. Oh, you grasp me
Somewhat too hard, friend!

Cunn. That's Love's eager will;
I'll touch it gentlier. [*Kisses her hand.*]

Mir. That's too low in you,
'Less it be doubly recompens'd in me. [*Kisses his hand.*]
Pompey. Puh! I must stop my mouth; I shall be
choak'd else.

Cunn. Come, we'll not play and trifle with delays;
We met to join these hands, and willingly
I cannot leave it until confirmation.

Mir. One word first! how does your friend, kind
Sir Gregory?

Cunn. Why do you mention him? you love him not.

Mir. I shall love you the less if you say so, Sir:
In troth, I love him; but 'tis you deceive him,
This flattering hand of yours does rob him now,
Now you steal his right from him; and I know
I shall have hate for it, his hate extremely.

Cunn. Why, I thought you had not come so weakly
arm'd:
Upon my life, the knight will love you for't,
Exceedingly love you, for ever love you.

Mir. Ay, you'll persuade me so.

Cunn.

Cunn. Why, he's my friend,
And wishes me a fortune equal with him,
I know and dare speak it for him.

Mir. Oh, this hand betrays him!
You might remember him in some court'fy yet at least.

Cunn. I thank your help in it; here's to his health,
Where-e'er he be!

Mir. I'll pledge it,
Were it against my health.

Pompey. Oh, oh! my heart
Hops after twelve mile a-day, upon a good return!
Now could I walk three hundred mile afoot,
And laugh forwards and backwards.

Mir. You'll take the knight's health, Sir?

Pompey. Yes, yes, forsooth. Oh, my fides! Such
a banquet

Once a-week, would make me grow fat in a fortnight.

Cunn. Well; now to close our meeting, with the
close

Of mutual hands and hearts, thus I begin:
Here in Heav'n's eye, and all Love's sacred pow'rs,
(Which in my prayers stand propitious)
I knit this holy hand fast, and with this hand
The heart that owes this hand, ever binding
By force of this initiating contract
Both heart and hand in love, faith, loyalty,
Estate, or what to them belongs, in all the
Dues, rights, and honours of a faithful husband;
And this firm vow, henceforth 'till death to stand
Irrevocable, sealed both with heart and hand!

Mir. Which thus I second: But, oh, Sir Gregory!

Cunn. Again? This interposition's ill, believe me.

Mir. Here, in Heav'n's eye, and all Love's sacred
pow'rs,

I knit this holy hand fast, and with this hand
The heart that owes this hand, ever binding
Both heart and hand in love, honour, loyalty,
Estate, or what to them belongs, in all the
Dues, rights, and duties of a true faithful wife;
And this firm vow, henceforth 'till death to stand

Irrevocable,

320 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Irrevocable, sealed both with heart and hand!

Greg. A full agreement on both parts.

Cunn. Ay, here's witness of that.

Greg. Nay, I have over-reach'd you, lady; and that's much,

For any knight in England to over-reach a lady.

Mir. I rejoice in my deceit; I am a lady

Now, I thank you, Sir.

Pompey. Good morrow, lady Fop!

Greg. 'Snails, I'm gull'd! made a worshipful ass!

This is not my lady.

Cunn. But it is, Sir; and true as your dream told you,
That your lady was become another woman.

Greg. I'll have another lady, Sir, if there were
No more ladies in London; blindman-buff
Is an unlawful game.

Cunn. Come, down on your knees first, and thank
your stars.

Greg. A fire of my stars! I may thank you, I think.

Cunn. So you may pray for me, and honour me,
That have preserv'd you from a lasting torment,
For a perpetual comfort. Did you call me friend——

Greg. I pray pardon me for that; I did mis-call you,
I confess.

Cunn. And should I, receiving such a thankful name,
Abuse it in the act? Should I see my friend
Baffled, disgrac'd, without any reverence
To your title, to be call'd *slave*, *rascal*? nay,
Curs'd to your face, fool'd, scorn'd, beaten down
With a woman's peevish hate, yet I should stand
And suffer you to be lost, cast away?
I would have seen you buried quick first,
Your spurs of knighthood to have wanted rowels,
And to be hack'd from your heels⁴¹! *Slave*, *rascal*?
Hear this tongue!

Mir. My dearest love, sweet knight, my lord, my
husband!

Cunn. So! this is not *slave* and *rascal* then.

⁴¹ To be kick'd from your heels.] Amended by Symphon.

Mir. What shall your eye command, but shall be done,
In all the duties of a loyal wife?

Cunn. Good, good!

Are not curses fitter for you? were't not better
Your head were broke with the handle of a fan⁴²,
Or your nose bored with a silver bodkin?

Mir. Why, I will be a servant in your lady.

Cunn. 'Pox, but you shall not!

She's too good for you! This contract
Shall be a nullity; I'll break it off,
And see you better bestow'd.

Greg. 'Slid, but you shall not, Sir!

She's mine own, and I am hers, and we are one
Another's lawfully, and let me see him
That will take her away by the civil law!
If you be my friend, keep you so; if you have done me
A good turn, do not hit me i'th' teeth with't!
That's not the part of a friend.

Cunn. If you be content——

Greg. Content?

I was never in better contention in my life:
I'll not change her for both the Exchanges, New or
the Old.

Come, kiss me boldly!

Pompey. Give you joy, Sir!

Greg. Oh, Sir,

I thank you as much as tho' I did! You are
Belov'd of ladies; you see we are glad
Of under-women.

Pompey. Ladies? Let

Not ladies be disgrac'd! You're, as it were,

⁴² *The handle of a fan.*] In the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Falstaff speaks of mistress Bridget having lost *the handle of her fan*; upon which Steevens says, 'It should be remembered, that *fans*, in our Author's time, were more costly than they are at present, as well as of a different construction. They consisted of ostrich feathers, or others of equal length and flexibility, which were stuck into handles, the richer sort of which were composed of gold, silver, or ivory, of curious workmanship. One of these is mentioned in *The Fleire*, Com. 1610. —the hath a fan with a *short silver handle*, about "the length of a barber's syringe." R.

322 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

A married man, and have a family ;
 And, for the party's sake that was unnam'd
 Before, being pease-cod time, I am appeas'd ;
 Yet I would wish you make a ruler of your tongue.

Cunn. Nay, no dissention here ! I must bar that.
 And this, friend, I entreat you, and be advis'd ;
 Let this private contract be yet conceal'd,
 And still support a seeming face of love
 Unto the lady ; mark how it avails you, and
 Quits all her scorns : Her uncle is now hot
 In pursuit of the match, and will enforce her,
 Bend her proud stomach, that she shall proffer
 Herself to you, which when you have flouted,
 And laugh'd your fill at, you shall scorn her off,
 With all your disgraces trebled upon her ;
 For there the pride of all her heart will bow,
 When you shall foot her from you, not she you.

Greg. Good, i'faith ! I'll continue it. I'd fain
 Laugh at the old fellow too, for h'has abus'd me
 As scurvily as his Niece ; my knighthood is
 Upon the spur ! we'll go to bed, and then
 To church as fast as we can. [*Exeunt Greg. and Mir.*]

Pompey. I do wonder
 I do not hear of the lady yet.

Cunn. The good minute
 May come sooner than you are aware of ; I do not think
 But 'twill ere night yet, as near as 'tis.

Pompey. Well, I will go walk
 By the New-River, in that meditation ;
 I am o'er shoes, I'm sure, upon the dry bank.
 This gullery of my master will keep me company
 This two hours too : If love were not
 An enemy to laughter, I should drive away
 The time well enough. You know my walk, Sir ;
 If she sends, I shall be found angling, for I will try
 What I can catch for luck sake ; I will fish fair for't.
 Oh, knight, that thou shouldst be gull'd so, (ha, ha !)
 It does me good at heart,
 But oh, lady, thou tak'st down my merry part. [*Exit.*
Enter

Enter Wittypate.

Witty. Friend !

Cunn. Here, friend.

Witty. All is afoot, and will go smooth away :
The woman has conquer'd the women, they are gone,
Which I have already complain'd to my father,
Suggesting that Sir Gregory is fall'n off
From his charge, for neglects and ill usage,
And that he is most violently bent
On Gentry's wife (whom I have call'd a widow)
And that without most sudden prevention
He will be married to her.

Cunn. 'Sfoot, all this is wrong !
This wings his pursuit, and will be before me :
I'm lost for ever !

Witty. No ; stay ! you sha'n't go
But with my father : On my wit let it lie ;
You shall appear a friendly assistant,
To help in all affairs, and in execution
Help yourself only.

Cunn. 'Would my belief
Were strong in this assurance !

Witty. You shall credit it,
And my wit shall be your slave, if it deceive you.—

Enter Oldcraft.

My father !

Oldc. Oh, Sir, you're well met ! Where's the knight
Your friend ?

Cunn. Sir, I think your son has told you.

Witty. Shall I stand to tell't again ? I tell you he
loves,

But not my kinswoman ; her base usage, and
Your slack performance, which he accuses most
Indeed, has turn'd the knight's heart upside down.

Oldc. I'll curb her for't : Can he be but recover'd,
He shall have her, and she shall be dutiful,
And love him as a wife too.

Witty. With that condition, Sir,
I dare recall him were he enter'd the church,
So much interest of love I assure in him.

Oldc. Sir, it shall be no loss to you if you do.

Witty. Ay, but
These are words still; will not the deeds be wanting
At the recovery, if't should be again.

Oldc. Why, here, fool, I am provided! five hundred
In earnest of the thousands in her dower;
But were they married once,
I'd cut him short enough, that's my agreement.

Witty. Ay, now I perceive some purpose in you, father.

Oldc. But wherefore is she then stol'n out of doors
To him?

Witty. To him? Oh, fy upon your error!
She has another object, believe it, Sir.

Oldc. I never could perceive it.

Cunn. I did, Sir; and to her shame I should speak it,
To my own sorrow I saw it, dalliance,
Nay, dotage, with a very clown, a fool.

Oldc. Wit and wantonness; nothing else, nothing else:
She love a fool? she'll sooner make a fool
Of a wise man.

Cunn. Ay, my friend complains so;
Sir Gregory says flatly, she makes a fool of him,
And these bold circumstances are approv'd:
Favours have been sent by him, yet he, ignorant
Whither to carry 'em, they've been understood,
And taken from him: Certain, Sir, there is
An unsuspected fellow lies conceal'd,
What or where-e'er he is—these slight neglects
Could not be of a knight else.

Oldc. Well, Sir, you have promis'd (if we recover
him
Unmarried) to salve all these old bruises?

Cunn. I'll do my best, Sir.

Oldc. I shall thank you costly, Sir, and kindly too.

Witty. Will you talk away the time here, Sir, and
come

Behind

Behind all your purposes?

Oldc. Away, good Sir!

Witty. Then stay a little, good Sir, for my advice.
Why, father, are you broke? your wit beggar'd?
Or are you at your wits' end? or out of
Love with wit? no trick of wit to surprise
Those designs, but with open hue and cry,
For all the world to talk on? This is strange!
You were not wont to stubber a project so.

Oldc. Can you help at a pinch now? shew yourself
My son? Go to! I leave this to your wit,
Because I'll make a proof on't.

Witty. 'Tis thus then;
I have had late intelligence, they're now
Buxsom as Bacchus' froes, revelling, dancing,
Telling the music's numbers with their feet,
Awaiting the meeting of premonish'd friends,
That is questionless, little dreading you:
Now, Sir, with a dextrous trick indeed, sudden
And sufficient, were well, to enter on 'em
As something like the abstract of a masque;
What tho' few persons? if best for our purpose,
That commends the project.

Oldc. This takes up time.

Witty. Not at all; I can presently furnish
With loose disguises that shall fit that scene.

Oldc. Why, what wants then?

Witty. Nothing but charge of music;
That must be paid, you know.

Oldc. That shall be my charge; I will pay the music,
Whate'er it cost.

Witty. And that shall be all your charge.
Now on! I like it; there'll be wit in't, father.

[*Exeunt Oldc. and Witty.*]

Cunn. I will neither distrust his wit nor friendship;
Yet if his master-brain should be o'erthrown,
My resolution now shall seize mine own. [Exit.]

326 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Enter Niece, Lady Ruinous, Guardianess, Sir Ruinous, and Priscian (with instruments), masqued.

L. Ruin. Nay, let's have music; let that sweet breath at least

Give us her airy welcome! 'twill be the best
I fear this ruin'd receptacle will yield;
But that most freely.

Niece. My welcome follows me,
Else I am ill come hither: You assure me
Still Mr. Cunningham will be here, and that it was
His kind entreaty that wish'd me meet him.

L. Ruin. Else let me be that shame unto my sex,
That all belief may fly 'em.

Niece. Continue
Still the knight's name unto my Guardianess;
She expects no other.

L. Ruin. He will, he will; assure you,
Lady, Sir Gregory will be here, and suddenly;
This music fore-ran him: Is't not so, consorts?

Ruin. Yes, lady;
He stays on some device to bring along
Such a labour he was busy in, some witty device.

Niece. 'Twill be long ere he comes then, for wit is
A great labour to him.

Guard. Well, well, you will agree better one day.

Niece. Scarce two, I think.

Guard. Such a mock-beggar suit of cloaths as led me
Into the fool's pair o' dice, with deuce ace,
He that would make me mistress Cun, Cun, Cunnie,
He's quite out of my mind, but I shall ne'er
Forget him while I have a hole in my head:
Such a one I think would please you better,
Tho' he did abuse you.

Ruin. Fy! speak well of him now,
Your Niece has quitted him.

Guard. I hope she has,
Else she loses me for ever. But, for Sir Gregory,
'Would he were come; I shall ill answer this

Unto

Unto your uncle else.

Niece. You know it is his pleasure
I should keep him company.

Guard. Ay, and should be your own,
If you did well too. Lord, I do wonder
At the niceness of your ladies now-a-days,
They must have husbands with so much wit forsooth—
Worship and wealth were both wont to be
In better request, I'm sure: I cannot tell,
But they get ne'er the wiser children that I see.

L. Ruin. La, la, la, sol! this music breathes in vain,
Methinks 'tis dull to let it move alone;
Let's have a female motion; 'tis in private,
And we'll grace it ourselves, however it deserves.

Niece. What say you, Guardianess?

Guard. Alas, I am
Weary with the walk, my jaunting days are done.

L. Ruin. Come, come, we'll fetch her in by course,
or else

She shall pay the music.

Guard. Nay, I'll have a little for my money then.
[*They dance, a cornet is winded.*]

L. Ruin. Hark! upon my life, the knight! it is
your friend;

This was the warning-piece of his approach.

*Enter Oldcraft, Wittybate, and Cunningham, masqued,
and take them to dance.*

Ha! no words but mum!

Well, then we shall need no counsel-keeping.

Niece. Cunningham?

Cunn. Yes; fear nothing.

Niece. Fear? why do you tell me of it?

Cunn. Your uncle's here.

Niece. Ah me!

Cunn. Peace!

Oldc. We have caught 'em.

Witty. Thank my wit, father.

Guard. Which is the knight, think you?

328 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Niece. I know not ; he will be found when he speaks ;
No masque can disguise his tongue.

Witty. Are you charg'd ?

Oldc. Are you awake ?

Witty. I'm answer'd in a question.

Cunn. Next change we meet, we loose our hands
no more.

Niece. Are you prepar'd to tie 'em ?

Cunn. Yes. You must

Go with me.

Guard. Whither, Sir ? Not from my charge,
Believe me.

Cunn. She goes along.

Niece. Will you venture, and my uncle here ?

Cunn. His stay's

Prepar'd for.

Guard. 'Tis the knight sure ; I will follow.

[*Exeunt Cunn. Niece, and Guard.*]

Oldc. How now ? the music tir'd before us ?

Ruin. Yes, Sir ;

We must be paid now.

Witty. Oh, that's my charge, father.

Oldc. But stay ! where are our wanton ladies gone ?

Son, where are they ?

Witty. Only chang'd the room in a change ; that's
all, sure.

Oldc. I'll make 'em all sure else, and then return to you.

Ruin. You must pay for your music first, Sir,

Oldc. Must ?

Are there *rusty* fiddlers ? are beggars chusers now ?

Ha ! Why, Wittypate ! son ! where am I ?

Witty. You were

Dancing e'en now, in good measure, Sir : Is

Your health miscarried since ? what ail you, Sir ?

Oldc. Death, I may be gull'd to my face ! Where's
my Niece ?

What are you ?

L. Ruin. None of your Niece, Sir.

Oldc. How now ?

Have

Have you loud instruments too? I will hear
No more, I thank you. What have I done tro
To bring these fears about me? Son, where am I?

Witty. Not where you should be, Sir; you should be
Paying for your music, and you're in a maze.

Oldc. Oh, is it so? Put up, put up, I pray you;
Here's a crown for you.

L. Ruin. Pish, a crown?

Ruin. Prif. Ha, ha, ha! a crown?

Oldc. Which way do you laugh ⁴⁴? I have seen a
crown

Has made a consort laugh heartily.

Witty. Father,
To tell you truth, these are no ordinary
Musicians; they expect a bounty above
Their punctual desert.

Oldc. A pox on your punks and their deserts too!
Am I not cheated, all this while, think you?
Is not your pate in this?

Witty. If you be cheated,
You're not to be indicted for your own goods;
Here you trifle time, to market your bounty,
And make it base, when it must needs be free,
For aught I can perceive.

Oldc. Will you know the lowest price, Sir?

Witty. That I will, Sir, with all my heart.

Oldc. Unless
I was discover'd, and they now fled home
Again for fear, I'm absolutely beguil'd;
That's the best can be hop'd for.

Witty. Faith, 'tis somewhat too dear yet, gentlemen.

Ruin. There's not a denier to be bated, Sir.

Oldc. Now, Sir, how dear is it?

Witty. Bate but the other ten pound.

Prif. Not a bawbee, Sir.

Oldc. How! bate ten pound? What is the whole
sum then?

⁴⁴ Which way do you laugh?] i. e. Whether in jest or earnest.

Symphon.

Witty.

330 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Witty. Faith, Sir, a hundred pound; with much ado,
I got fifty bated; and, faith, father,
To say truth, it is reasonable for
Men of their fashion.

Oldc. La, la, la, down! a hundred pound? la, la, la!
You are a consort of thieves, are you not?

Witty. No; musicians, Sir; I told you before.

Oldc. Fiddle faddle!

Is't not a robb'ry? a plain robb'ry?

Witty. No,

No, no, by no means, father; you've receiv'd
For your money, nay, and that you can't give back:
'Tis somewhat dear, I confess; but who can help it?
If they had been agreed with beforehand—
'Twas ill forgotten.

Oldc. And how many shares have you in this? I see
My force! case up your instruments. I yield; here!
As robb'd and taken from me, I deliver it.

Witty. No, Sir, you have perform'd your promise
now,

Which was, to pay the charge of music, that is all.

Oldc. I've heard no music, I've receiv'd none, Sir,
There none to be found in me, nor about me.

Witty. Why, Sir, here's
Witness 'gainst you, you have danc'd, and he that
Dances acknowledges a receipt of music.

Oldc. I deny that, Sir: Look you! I can dance
without
Music; d'you see, Sir? And I can sing without it too.
You are a consort of thieves! Do you hear what I do?

Witty. Pray take you heed, Sir, if you do move
The music again, it may cost you as much more!

Oldc. Hold, hold! I'll depart quietly. I need not
Bid you farewell, I think now, so long
As that hundred pound lasts with you.

Enter Guardianes.

Ha, ha! am I snapt i'faith?

Guard. Oh, Sir Perfidious——

Oldc.

WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS. 331

Oldc. Ay, ay; some howling another while!
Music's too damnable dear.

Guard. Oh, Sir!
My heart-strings are broke! If I can but live
To tell you the tale, I care not! Your Niece, my
charge, is——

Oldc. What? is she sick?

Guard. No, no, Sir,
She's lustily well married.

Oldc. To whom?

Guard. Oh, to that cunning dissembler Cunningham.

Oldc. I'll hang the priest first! What was he?

Guard. Your kinsman, Sir, that has the Welch
benefice.

Oldc. I sav'd him from the gallows to that end? Good!
Is there any more?

Guard. And Sir Gregory
Is married too.

Oldc. To my Niece too, I hope,
And then I may hang her.

Guard. No, Sir; to my niece, thank Cupid!
And that's all that's likely to recover me;
She's lady Fop now, and I am one of her aunts,
I thank my promotion.

*Enter Credulous, Cunningham, Niece, Gregory, and
Mirabel.*

Cred. I have performed
Your behest, Sir.

Oldc. What have you perform'd, Sir?

Witty. Faith, Sir, I must excuse my cousin in this act,
If you can excuse yourself for making him
A priest; there's the most difficult answer.
I put this practice on him, as from your desire:
A truth, a truth, father.

Cred. I protest, Sir, he tells you truth;
He mov'd me to't in your name.

Oldc. I protest, Sir,
He told you a lie in my name! and were you

332 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

So easy, Mr. Credulous, to believe him?

Cred. If a man should not believe his cousin, Sir,
Whom should he believe?

Oldc. Good e'en to you,
Good Mr. cousin Cunningham! and your fair bride,
My cousin Cunningham too! And how do you,
Sir Gregory, with your fair lady?

Greg. A little better
Than you would have had me, I thank you, Sir!
The days of *puppy*, and *slave*, and *rascal*, are
Pretty well blown over now; I know crabs from
verjuice,

I have tried both: An thou'dst give me thy Niece
for nothing,

I'd not have her.

Cunn. I think so, Sir Gregory;
For my sake you would not.

Greg. I would thou hadst 'scap'd her too!
And then she had died of the green-sickness. Know
this,

That I did marry in spite, and I
Will kiss my lady in spite, and love her in spite,
And beget children of her in spite,
And when I die, they shall have my lands in spite!
This was my resolution, and now 'tis out.

Niece. How spiteful are you now, Sir Gregory!—
Why, look you, I can love my dearest husband,
With all the honours, duties, sweet embraces,
That can be thrown upon a loving man.

Greg. Pox, this is afore your uncle's face; but
behind his back,

In private, you'll shew him another tale!

Cunn. You see, Sir, now, the irrecoverable state
Of all these things before you. Come out of your muse!
They have been but wit-weapons; you were wont
To love the play.

Enter Pompey.

Oldc. Let me alone in my muse, a little, Sir!

I will

I will wake to you anon.

Cunn. Udso, your friend Pompey!

How will you answer him?

Niece. Very well;

If you'll but second it, and help me.

Pompey. I do hear

Strange stories: Are ladies things obnoxious?

Niece. Oh, the dissembling falsest wretch is come!

Cunn. How now, lady?

Niece. Let me come to him!

And, instead of love, let me have revenge!

Witty. Pray you now,

Will you first examine, whether he be

Guilty or no.

Niece. He cannot be excus'd!—

How many messengers, thou perjur'd man,

Hast thou return'd with vows and oaths, that thou
wouldst

Follow, and ne'er 'till this unhappy hour

Could I set eye of thee, since thy false eye

Drew my heart to't? Oh, I could tear thee now,

Instead of soft embraces! Pray give me leave——

Witty. Faith, this was ill done of you, Sir, if
You promis'd otherwise.

Pompey. By this hand,

Never any messenger came at me, since

The first time I came into her company!

That a man should be wronged thus!

Niece. Did not

I send thee scarfs and diamonds? and thou

Return'dst me letters, one with a false heart in't.

Witty. Oh, fy! to receive favours, return falsehoods,
And hold a lady in hand——

Pompey. Will you believe me, Sir?

If ever I received diamonds, or scarf,

Or sent any letter to her, 'would this sword

Might ne'er go thro' me!

Witty. Some bad messengers
Have gone between you then.

Niece.

334 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

Niece. Take him
From my sight! if I shall see tomorrow——

Witty. Pray you forbear the place! this discontent
May impair her health much.

Pompey. 'Sfoot, if a man had been in any fault,
'Twould ne'er a griev'd him: Sir, if you'll believe—

Witty. Nay, nay, protest no more; I do believe you:
But you see how the lady is wrong'd by't;
She has cast away herself, 'tis to be fear'd,
Against her uncle's will, nay, and consent,
But out of a mere neglect, and spite to herself,
Married suddenly without any advice.

Pompey. Why, who can help it? if she be cast away,
She may thank herself: She might have gone
Further and far'd worse. I could do no more
Than I could do: 'Twas her own pleasure
To command me, that I should not come
'Till I was sent for; I had been with her
Every minute of an hour else.

Witty. Truly I believe you.

Pompey. Night and day
She might have commanded me, and that she knew
well enough:

I said as much to her between her and I;
Yet I protest, she is as honest a lady
For my part, that I'd say, if she would see me hang'd.
If she be cast away, I cannot help it;
She might have stay'd to have spoke with a man.

Witty. Well,
'Twas a hard misf on both parts.

Pompey. So it was;
I was within one of her, for all this cross luck;
I was sure I was between the knight and home.

Niece. Not gone yet? Oh, my heart! none regard
my health?

Witty. Good Sir, forbear her sight awhile!
You hear how ill she brooks it.

Pompey. Foolish woman,
To overthrow her fortunes so! I shall think

The worse of a lady's wit while I live for't.
 I could almost cry for anger! If she should
 Miscarry now, 'twould touch my conscience a little;
 And who knows what love and conceit may do?
 What would people say, as I go along?

' There goes he that the lady died for love on :'
 I am sure to hear on't i'th' streets; I shall weep
 Beforehand. Foolish woman! I do grieve
 More for thee now, than I did love thee before.
 Well, go thy ways! Now wouldst thou spare thy
 husband's head,

And break thine own heart, if thou hadst any wit.

I would some other had been

The cause of thy undoing; I shall be

Twitted i'th' teeth with it, I'm sure of that:

Foolish lady!

[Exit.

Niece. So, so, this trouble's well shook off.

Uncle, how do you? There's a dowry due, Sir.

Cunn. We have agreed it, sweetest, and find your
 uncle

Fully recover'd, kind to both of us.

Witty. To all the rest, I hope.

Oldc. Never to thee, nor thee, easy cousin *Credulous*:
 Was your wit so raw?

Cred. Faith, yours, Sir, so long season'd,
 Has been faulty too, and very much to blame,
 Speaking it with reverence, uncle.

Greg. Yes, faith, Sir,

You have paid as dear for your time, as any man here.

Witty. Ay, Sir, and I'll reckon it to him. *Imprimis*,
 The first preface-cheat of a pair of pieces
 To the beggars; you remember that;
 I was the example to your bounty there,
 I spake Greek and Syriack, Sir; you understand me
 now.

Next, the robbery put upon your indulgent cousin;
 Which indeed was no robbery, no constable,
 No justice, no thief, but all cheaters;
 There was a hundred mark, mark you that. Lastly,
 This

336 WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS.

This memorable hundred pounds' worth of music;
 This was both cheats and wit too. And for
 The assistance of this gentleman to my cousin
 (For which I am to have a fee) that was
 A little practice of my wit too, father. Will you
 Come to composition yet, father?

Cunn. Yes, faith, Sir, do!

Two hundred a-year will be easier
 Than so much weekly: I do not think he's barren,
 If he should be put to't again.

Oldc. Why,

This was the day I look'd for! Thou shalt hav't;
 And the next cheat makes it up three hundred.
 Live thou upon thy ten-pound vicarage;
 Thou get'st not a penny more; here's thy full
 Hire now.

Cred. I thank you, Sir.

Witty. Why, there was the sum of all my wit, father,
 To shove him out of your favour, which I fear'd
 Would have disinherited me.

Oldc. Most certain it had,
 Had not thy wit recover'd it. Is there any here
 That had a hand with thee?

Witty. Yes, all these, Sir.

Oldc. Nephew, part a hundred pound amongst 'em;
 I'll repay't. Wealth love me as I love wit, when I die,
 I'll build an alms-house for decayed wits!

Greg. I'll entertain one in my lifetime: Scholar,
 You shall be my chaplain; I have the gift
 Of twenty benefices, simple as I am here.

Pris. Thanks, my great patron!

Cunn. Sir, your gentry and
 Your name shall both be rais'd as high
 As my fortunes can reach 'em, for your friend's sake.

Witty. Something will
 Be in my present power, the future more;
 You shall share with me.

Ruin. and L. Ruin. Thanks, worthy gentlemen.

Neice. Sir, I would beg one thing of you.

Greg.

Greg. You can
Beg nothing of me.

Witty. Oh, Sir! if she begs,
There's your power over her.

Greg. She has begg'd me
For a fool already, but 'tis no matter.
I have begg'd her for a lady, that she might have been;
That's one for another.

Witty. Nay, but if she beg——

Greg. Let her beg again then.

Niece. That your man Pompey's coat
May come over his ears back again; I would not
He should be lost for my sake.

Greg. Well, 'tis granted,
For mine own sake.

Mir. I'll entreat it, Sir.

Greg. Why then, 'tis granted for your sake.

Oldc. Come, come,
Down with all weapons now! 'tis music time,
So it be purchas'd at an easy rate:
Some have receiv'd the knocks, some giv'n the hits,
And all concludes in love; there's happy wits!

[*Exeunt.*]

E P I L O G U E,

At the REVIVING of this PLAY,

WE need not tell you, gallants, that this night
The wits have jump'd, or that the scenes hit
right.

'Twould be but labour lost for to excuse
What Fletcher had to do in: His brisk muse
Was so mercurial, that if he but writ
An act or two, the whole play rose up wit,
We'll not appeal unto those gentlemen
Judge by their cloaths, if they fit right, nor when—
The ladies smile, and with their fans delight
To whisk a clinch aside, then all goes right:
'Twas well receiv'd before, and we dare say,
You now are welcome to no vulgar play.

THE
FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

A TRAGI-COMEDY.

The Commendatory Verses of Gardiner ascribe this Play to Fletcher alone. It was first published in the folio of 1647; and has not been acted many years, nor, we believe, ever altered.

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P R O L O G U E.

PLAYS have their fates, not as in their true sense
They're understood, but as the influence
Of idle custom madly works upon
The dross of many-tongu'd Opinion.
A worthy story, howsoever writ,
For language, modest mirth, conceit or wit,
Meets oftentimes with the sweet commendation
Of 'hang't! 'tis scurvy!' when for approbation
A jig shall be clapt at, and every rhyme
Prais'd and applauded by a clamorous chime.
Let Ignorance and Laughter dwell together!
They are beneath the muses' pity: Hither
Come nobler judgments, and to those the strain
Of our invention is not bent in vain:
The Fair Maid of the Inn to you commends
Her hopes and welcomes; and withal intends
In th' entertains to which she doth invite ye,
All things to please, and some things to delight ye.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Duke of Florence.

Albertus, *admiral of Florence.*

Baptista, *a brave sea commander, ancient friend to Albertus.*

Cesario, *a young gentleman of a fiery nature, son to Albertus.*

Mentivole, *son to Baptista, lover of Clarissa.*

Prospero, *a noble friend to Baptista.*

Hoft, *the supposed father of Biancha.*

Forobosco, *a cheating mountebank.*

Clown, *the mountebank's man, and setter.*

Dancer,

Taylor,

Muletteer, } *Six fools and knaves, who pretend love to*
Pedant, } *Biancha.*

Clerk,

Coxcomb,

Secretary *to the Duke.*

Two Magistrates of Florence.

Physician.

Surgeon.

Three Gentlemen.

Sailors.

W O M E N.

Mariana, *wife to Albertus, a virtuous lady.*

Clarissa, *Mariana's daughter, in love with Mentivole.*

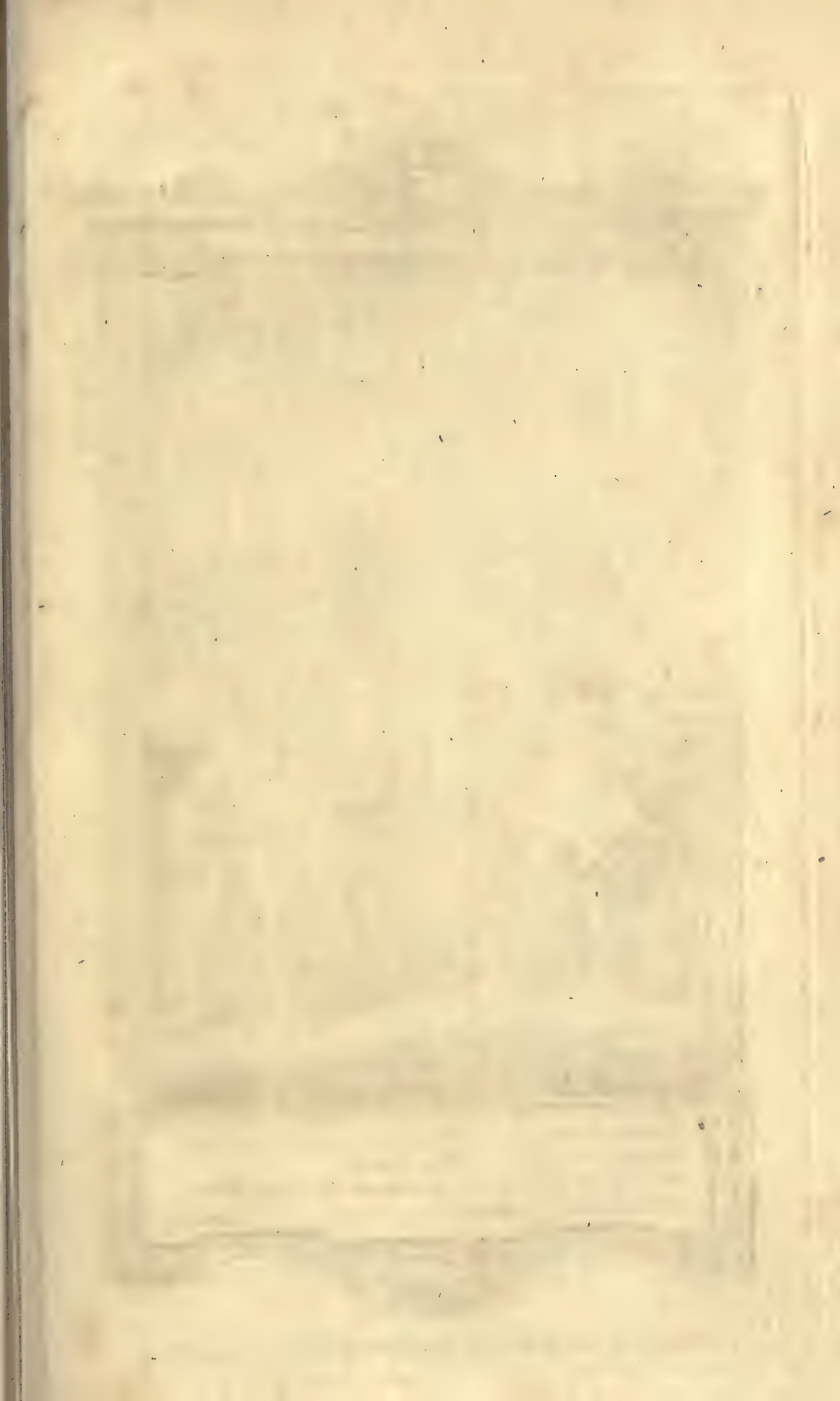
Juliana, *niece to the duke of Genoa, Baptista's second wife.*

Biancha, *the Fair Maid of the Inn, beloved of Cesario, and daughter to Baptista and Juliana.*

Hostess, *the supposed mother of Biancha.*

SCENE, FLORENCE.

THE



THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN



*Oh, Sir, for honour's sake, stay your foul purpose;
For if you do proceed thus cruelly,
There is no question, in the wound you give him,
I shall bleed to death for't!*

Act II

MAReeker del.

J. Collier sculp.

T H E

AIR MAID OF THE INN.

A C T I.

Enter Cesario and Clarissa.
Cesario. **I** NTERPRET not, Clarissa, my true zeal
 In giving you counsel, to transcend the
 bounds

at should confine a brother! 'tis your honour,
and peace of mind (which, honour lost^d, will leave
you)

bour to preſerve : And tho' you yet are
re and untainted, and reſolve to be ſo,
ving a father's eye, and mother's care,
all your ways to keep you fair and upright,
which reſpects my beſt advices muſt
pear ſuperfluous ; yet ſince love, dear ſiſter,
ll ſometimes tender things unneceſſary,
conſtrue not my purpoſe !

Clat. Sir, I dare not;
 still receive it as a large addition
 to the much that I already stand engag'd for.
 But, pardon me tho' I profess, upon
 a true examination of myself,
 even to my private thoughts, I cannot find
 having such strong supporters to uphold me)

Which honour last will leave you.] Amended by Seward.

344 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

On what slight ground the least doubt can be rais'd,
To render me suspected I can fall
Or from my fame or virtue.

Cef. Far be't from me,
To nourish such a thought! and yet excuse me,
As you would do a lapidary, whose whole fortunes
Depend upon the safety of one jewel,
If he think no case precious enough
To keep it in full lustre, nor no locks,
Tho' lending strength to iron doors, sufficient
To guard it, and secure him! You to me are
A gem of more esteem, and prized higher,
Than usurers do their muck, or great men title;
And any flaw (which Heav'n avert!) in you,
(Whose reputation, like a diamond
Cut newly from the rock, women with envy,
And men with covetous desires, look up at)
By prying eyes discover'd, in a moment
Would render what the braveries of Florence,
For want of counterpoise, forbear to cheapen,
Of little or no value.

Clar. I see, brother,
The mark you shoot at, and much thank your love;
But for my virgin jewel, which is brought
In comparison with your diamond, rest assur'd
It shall not fall in such a workman's hands,
Whose ignorance or malice shall have power
To cast one cloud upon it, but still keep
Her native splendor.

Cef. 'Tis well; I commend you;
And study your advancement with that care
As I would do a sister's, whom I love
With more than common ardor*.

Clar. That from me
I hope's return'd to you.

Cef. I do confess it.
Yet let me tell you, (but still with that love
I wish t' encrease between us) that you are

* Common order.] Corrected in 1750.

Observ'd, against the gravity long maintain'd
In Italy (where to see a maid unmask'd
Is held a blemish), to be over-frequent
In giving or receiving visits.

Clar. How?

Ces. Whereas the custom's here to wooe by picture,
And never see the substance. You are fair,
And beauty draws temptations on, you know it:
I would not live to see a willing grant
From you, to one unworthy of your birth,
Feature or fortune; yet there have been ladies
Of rank, proportion, and of means beyond you,
That have prov'd this no miracle.

Clar. One unworthy?

Why, pray you, gentle brother, who are they
That I vouchsafe these bounties to? I hope,
In your strict criticism of me, and my manners,
That you will not deny they are your equals.

Ces. Angry?

Clar. I've reason! But, in cold blood, tell me,
Had we not one father?

Ces. Yes, and mother too.

Clar. And he a soldier?

Ces. True.

Clar. If I then borrow

A little of the boldness of his temper,
Imparting it to such as may deserve it,
(Howe'er indulgent to yourselves, you brothers
Allow no part of freedom to your sisters)
I hope 'twill not pass for a crime in me,
To grant access and speech to noble suitors,
And you escape for innocent, that descend
To a thing so far beneath you? Are you touch'd?
Why, did you think that you had Giges' ring?
Or th' herb that gives invisibility?
Or that Biancha's name had ne'er been mention'd?
The Fair Maid of the grand Osteria, brother?

Ces. No more!

Clar. A little, brother. Your night-walks,

And

346 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

And offer'd presents, which coy she contemn'd;
Your combats in disguises with your rivals,
Brave muletteers, scullions perfum'd with grease,
And such as cry meat for cats³, must be remember'd;
And all this pother for a common trull!
A tempting sign, and curiously set forth,
To draw in riotous guests! a thing expos'd
To every ruffian's rude assault! and subject,
For a poor salary, to a rich man's lust,
Tho' made up of diseases!

Cef. Will you end yet?

Clar. And this a mistress for Albertus' son?
One that I should call sister?

Cef. Part not with

Your modesty in this violent heat! The truth is,
(For you shall be my confessor) I love her;
But virtuously: Report, that gives her out
Only for fair, and adds not she is chaste,
Detracts much from her; for indeed she is,
Tho' of a low condition, compos'd
Of all those graces dames of highest birth,
Tho' rich in Nature's bounties, should be proud of.
But leave her! and to you, my nearest care,
My dearest, best Clarissa! Do not think
(For then you wrong me) I wish you should live
A barren virgin life? I rather aim at
A noble husband, that may make you mother
Of many children; one that, when I know him
Worth your embraces, I may serve, and sue to:
And therefore scorn not to acquaint me with
That man, that happy man, you please to favour!

Clar. I ever purpos'd it; for I will like
With your allowance.

Cef. As a pawn of this,
Receive this ring; but, ere you part with it

³ *And such as cry meat for cats.*] The second folio reads *want*; but we apprehend the text to be right. In Massinger's *Maid of Honour*, act iii. sc. i. Gasparo, in mentioning the most ignoble employments, says,

'I will cry brooms or *cats' meat* in Palermo,

'Turn porter, carry burdens, any thing,

'Rather than live a soldier!

On any terms, be certain of your choice,
And make it known to me !

*Enter Alberto, Baptista, Mariana, Mentivole, and
Servants with lights.*

Clar. You have my hand for't.

Ces. Which, were it not my sister's, I should kiss
With too much heat.

Clar. My father and his guests, Sir !

Alb. Oh, my old friend, my tried friend, my Baptista !
These days of rest and feasting suit not with
Our tougher natures ; those were golden ones,
Which were enjoy'd at sea ! that's our true mother ;
The land's to us a step-dame : There we fought
Honour and wealth thro' dangers ; yet those dangers
Delighted more than their rewards, tho' great ones,
And worth the undertakers : Here we study
The kitchen arts, to sharpen appetite,
Dull'd with abundance ; and dispute with Heav'n,
If that the least puff of the rough North-wind
Blast our vine's burden³, rendring to our palates
The charming juice less pleasing ; whereas there,
If we had biscuit, powder'd flesh, fresh water,
We thought them Persian delicates ; and for music,
If a strong gale but made the main-yard crack,
We danc'd to the loud minstrel.

Bapt. And fear'd less
(So far we were in love with noble action)
A tempest than a calm.

Alb. 'Tis true, Baptista :
There, there, from mutual aids lent to each other,
And virtuous emulation to exceed
In manly daring, the true school of friendship,
We learnt those principles, which confirm'd us friends
Never to be forgot.

Bapt. Never, I hope.

Alb. We were married there : For bells, the roar-
ing cannon
Aloud proclaim'd it lawful, and a prize

³ *Blast our time's burden.*] The correction by Seward.

348 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Then newly ta'en, and equally divided,
 Serv'd as a dowry to you, then stil'd my wife;
 And did enable me to be a husband
 Fit to encounter so much wealth, tho' got
 With blood and horror.

Mar. If so got, 'tis fit, Sir,
 Now you possess it, that you should enjoy it
 In peace and quiet: I, your son, and daughter,
 That reap the harvest of your winter's labour,
 Tho' debtors for it, yet have often trembled,
 When, in way of discourse, you have related
 How you came by it.

Alb. Trembled? How the softness
 Of your sex may excuse you, I'll not argue;
 But to the world, howe'er I hold thee noble,
 I should proclaim this boy some coward's bastard,
 And not the image of Albertus' youth,
 If when some wish'd occasion calls him forth
 To a brave trial, one weak artery
 Of his should shew a fever, tho' grim death
 Put on a thousand dreadful shapes to fright him,
 The elements, the sea, and all the winds
 We number on our compass, then conspiring
 To make the scene more ghastly! I must have thee,
 Sirrah, I must, if once you grapple with
 An enemy's ship, to board her, tho' you see
 The desperate gunner ready to give fire,
 And blow the deck up; or, like Cæsar's soldier,
 Thy hands like his cut off, hang by the teeth,
 And die undaunted.

Mar. I even die to hear you!
 My son, my lov'd Cefario, run such hazards?
 Bless'd saints forbid it! You have done enough
 Already for one family, that rude way.
 I'll keep him safe at home, and train him up
 A complete courtier: May I live to see him,
 By sweet discourse and gracious demeanor,
 Win and bring home a fair wife, and a rich,
 'Tis all I rest ambitious of.

Alb.

Alb. A wife?

As if there were a course to purchase one
Prevailing more than honourable action!
Or any intercessors move so far,
To take a mistress of a noble spirit,
As the true fame of glorious victories,
Atchiev'd by sweat and blood! Oh, the brave dames
Of warlike Genoa! they had eyes to see
The inward man, and only from his worth,
Courage, and conquests, the blind archer knew
To head his shafts, or light his quenched torch;
They were proof against them else: no carpet knight⁴,
That

⁴ *Carpet knight.*] *Carpet knights* are frequently mentioned with great contempt by our ancient writers. The learned Sir James Burrows gives the following account of them:

‘ There was an order of knighthood of the appellation of *KNIGHTS* of the *CARPET*, though few, or no persons (at least among those whom I have consulted) seem to know any thing about it, or even to have heard of it. I have taken some memoranda concerning the institution, and know that William lord Burgh (of Starborough castle in the county of Surry, father to Thomas lord Burgh, deputy of Ireland, and to Sir John Burgh who took the great Caracca ship in 1592) was made a *knight of the carpet*, at Westminster, on the 2d of October, 1553, the day after queen Mary’s coronation: And I met with a list of all who were made so at the same time, in Strype’s Memorials, vol. iii. Appendix, p. 11.

‘ See Anstis’s Observations on the Knighthood of the Bath, (Lond. 1725) p. 50, “ Upon the accession of Queen Mary to the throne, a commission was granted to the earl of Arundel, empowering him to make knights, but *WITHOUT any additional title*, within two days after the date of that patent: Which were the two days preceding her coronation. In pursuance hereof, we find the names of the knights created by him, according to the stated form of creating knights of the Bath; and the variety of the ceremonies used, so distinctly related, that it particularly deserves to be consulted in the appendix.”

‘ So that Mr. Anstis plainly considers them as being only a species of knights of the Bath, though *without* any additional title.

‘ If so, the appellation of *knights of the carpet* might be only popular; not their strict or proper title. This, however, was sufficient to induce Shakespeare (who wrote whilst they were commonly spoken of by such an appellation) to *use that term*, in contrast to a knighthood conferred upon a real soldier, as a reward of military valour.’

In addition to this note, and in confirmation of it, Mr. Steevens produces

350 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

That spent his youth in groves or pleasant bowers,
 Or, stretching on a couch his lazy limbs,
 Sung to his lute such soft and melting notes
 As Ovid nor Anacreon ever knew,
 Could work on them; nor once bewitch'd their sense,
 Tho' he came so perfum'd as he had robb'd
 Sabæa or Arabia of their wealth,
 And stor'd it in one suit. I still remember,
 And still remember it with joy, Baptista,
 When from the rescue of the Genoa fleet,
 Almost surpriz'd by the Venetian gallies,
 Thou didst return, and wert receiv'd in triumph,
 How lovely in thy honour'd wounds and scars
 Thou didst appear; what worlds of amorous glances
 The beauties of the city, where they stood,
 Fix'd like so many of the fairest stars,
 Shot from their windows at thee! How it fir'd
 Their bloods to see the enemies' captive streamers
 Borne thro' the streets! nor could chaste Juliana,
 The duke's fair niece, tho' guarded with her greatness,
 Resist this gallant charge, but, laying by
 Disparity of fortune from the object,
 Yielded herself thy prisoner.

Bapt. Pray you chuse
 Some other theme.

Mar. Can there be one more pleasing?

Bapt. That triumph drew on me a greater torture,
 And 'tis in the remembrance little less,
 Than ever captive suffer'd.

Mar. How! To gain
 The favour of so great a lady?

produces the following example from The Downfall of Robert Earl
 of Huntingdon, 1601,

' ——— soldiers, come away ;

' This *carpet knight* sits carping at our scars.'

They are mentioned also by Taylor the Water Poet, in The Praise
 of Hempseed :

' Castles for ladies, and for *carpet knights*,

' Unmercifully spoil'd at seething sighs.'

R.

* *Captive* streamers.] Corrected in 1750.

Bapt.

Bapt. Yes,

Since it prov'd fatal⁶: To have been happy, madam,
Adds to calamity; and the heavy loss
Of her I durst not hope for, once enjoy'd,
Turns what you think a blessing to a curse,
Which grief would have forgotten.

Alb. I am sorry
I touch'd upon it.

Mar. I burn rather, Sir,
With a desire to hear the story of
Your loves; and shall receive it as a favour,
Which you may grant.

Bapt. You must not be denied;
Yet with all brevity I must report it.
Tis true, fair Juliana, (Genoa's pride)
Enamour'd of my actions, lik'd my person;
Nor could I but with joy meet her affection,
Since it was lawful; for, my first wife dead,
We were closely married, and for some few months
Tasted the fruits of't: But malicious Fate,
Envyng our too-much happiness, wrought upon
A faithless servant, privy to our plot,
And cabinet-counsellor to Juliana,
Who, either for hope, or reward, or fear,
Discover'd us to the incensed duke,
Whose rage made her close prisoner, and pronounc'd
On me perpetual banishment. Some three years
I wander'd on the seas, since entertain'd
By the great Duke of Florence; but what fate
Attended her, or Prospero my friend,
That stay'd at Genoa to expect the issue,
Is yet uncertain.

Enter a Gentleman.

Alb. From the Duke?

⁶ Yes, *since it prov'd fatal.*] The particle inserted in the text im-
proving both sense and measure was most probably in the original.

Seward.

Seward reads,

Since it prov'd so fatal;
thereby destroying ' both sense and measure.'

Bapt.

352 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Bapt. He's welcome,
To end my forc'd relation !

Alb. Signor Baptista,
The great Duke's will commands your present care,
Gent. It points indeed at both of you.

Bapt. I wait it.

Alb. In, Mariana ; to your rest !

Bapt. Nay, leave us ;
We must be private.

Mar. Stay not long, Cefario.

[*Exeunt. Manent Cefario & Mentivole.*]

Ment. So ! these old men vanish'd, 'tis allow'd
That we may speak ; and howsoe'er they take
Delight in the discourse of former dangers,
It cannot hinder us to treat a little
Of present pleasures.

Cef. Which, if well enjoy'd,
Will not alone continue, but encrease,
In us their friendship.

Ment. How shall we spend the night ?
To snore it out, like drunken Dutchmen, would
Sort ill with us Italians : We are made
Of other metal, fiery, quick, and active.
Shall we take our fortune ? and, while our cold fathers
(In whom long since their youthful heats were dead)
Talk much of Mars, serve under Venus' ensigns,
And seek a mistress ?

Cef. That's a game, dear friend,
That does admit no rival in chase of it ;
And either to be undertook alone,
Or not to be attempted.

Ment. I'll not press you.
What other sports to entertain the time with
The following morning ?

Cef. Any that may become us.

Ment. Is the Neapolitan horse the viceroy sent you
In a fit plight to run ?

Cef. So my groom tells me.
I can boast little of my horsemanship ;
Yet, upon his assurance, I dare wager

A thousand

A thousand crowns, 'gainst any horse in Florence,
For an eight-mile course.

Ment. I would not win of you,
In respect you are impatient of loss;
Else I durst match him with my Barbary
For twice the sum.

Ces. You do well to excuse it,
Being certain to be beaten.

Ment. Tush, you know
The contrary.

Ces. To end the controversy,
Put it to trial; by my life, I'll meet you

Enter Clarissa.

With the next rising sun.

Ment. A match! But here
Appears a Cynthia, that scorns to borrow
A beam of light from the great eye of Heav'n,
She being herself all brightness: How I envy
Those amorous smiles, those kisses, but sure chaste ones,
Which she vouchsafes her brother!

Clar. You are wanton:
Pray you think me not Biancha; leave, I pray you!
My mother will not sleep before she see you;
And since you know her tenderness, nay fondness,
In every circumstance that concerns your safety,
You are not equal⁷ to her.

Ces. I must leave you;
But will not fail to meet you.

Ment. Soft sleeps to you!

Mar. [*within.*] Cesario!

Clar. You're call'd again.

Ces. Some sons
Complain of too much rigour in their mothers;
I of too much indulgence. You will follow? [*Exit.*]

Clar. You are her first care; therefore lead the way!

Ment. She stays; blest opportunity! she stays
As she invited conference! she was ever

⁷ *Equal*] i. e. *Just*. The word frequently occurs in that sense.

354 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Noble and free; but thus to tempt my frailty,
Argues a yielding in her; or, contempt
Of all that I dare offer. Stand I now
Consulting? No; I'll put it home.

Clar. Who waits there?
More lights!

Ment. You need them not; they are as useless
As at noon-day: Can there be darkness where
Nature, then wisely liberal, vouchsaf'd
To lend two suns?

Clar. Hyperboles!

Ment. No; truths,
Truths, beauteous virgin; so my love-sick heart
Assures me, and my understanding tells me
I must approach them wisely: Should I rashly
Press near their scorching beams, they would consume
me;

And, on the contrary, should your disdain
Keep me at too much distance, and I want
Their comfortable heat, the frost of death
Would seize on all my faculties.

Clar. Pray you pause, Sir!
This vehemency of discourse must else needs tire you:
These gay words take not me; 'tis simple faith,
Honest integrity, and lawful flames,
I am delighted with.

Ment. Such I bring with me;
And therefore, lady——

Clar. But that you took me off
Ere I came to a period, I had added
A long experience must be requir'd
Both of his faith and trust, with whom a virgin
Trafficks for what is dearest in this life,
Her liberty and honour. I confess
I oft have view'd you with an eye of favour;
And, with your generous parts, the many tenders
Of doing me all fair offices, have won
A good opinion from me——

Ment. Oh, speak ever!

I never

I never heard such music.

Clar. A plain tune, Sir,
But 'tis a hearty one. When I perceive,
By evident proofs, your alms are truly noble,
And that you bring the engines of fair love,
Not of foul lust, to shake and undermine
My maiden fortress, I may then make good
What now I dare not promise.

Ment. You already,
In taking notice of my poor deservings,
Have been magnificent, and 'twill appear
A frontless impudence to ask beyond this:
Yet qualify, tho' not excuse, my error,
Tho' now I am ambitious to desire
A confirmation of it!

Clar. So it wrong not
My modesty to grant it.

Ment. 'Tis far from me;
I only am a suitor you would grace me
With some toy, but made rich in that you wore it,
To warrant to the world that I usurp not,
When I presume to stile myself your servant!
A ribbon from your shoe.

Clar. You are too humble;
I'll think upon't, and something of more value
Shall witness how I prize you. It grows late;
I'll bring you to the door.

Ment. You still more bind me. [Exeunt.

Enter Duke, Albertus, Baptista, Magistrates and Attendants.

Duke. You find, by this assur'd intelligence,
The preparation of the Turk against us.
We've met him oft and beat him; now to fear him
Would argue want of courage; and I hold it
A safer policy for us and our signiories,
To charge him in his passage o'er the sea,
Than to expect him here.

Alb. May it please your highness,

356 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Since you vouchsafe to think me worthy of
 This great employment, if I may deliver
 My judgment freely, 'tis not flattery
 Tho' I say my opinion waits on you⁸;
 Nor would I give my suffrage and consent
 To what you have propos'd, but that I know it
 Worth the great speaker, tho' that the denial
 Call'd on your heavy anger. For myself
 I do profess thus much, if a blunt soldier
 May borrow so much from the oil'd-tongu'd courtier,
 (That echoes whatsoe'er the prince allows of)
 All that my long experience hath taught me,
 That have spent three parts of my life at sea,
 (Let it not taste of arrogance that I say it)
 Could not have added reasons of more weight
 To fortify your affections, than such
 As your Grace out of observation merely
 Already have pounded.

Bapt. With the honour
 To give the daring enemy an affront
 In being the first opposer, it will teach
 Your soldiers boldness, and strike fear in them
 That durst attempt you.

1 *Magis.* Victuals and ammunition,
 And money too, the sinews of the war,
 Are stor'd up in the magazine.

2 *Magis.* And the gallies
 New rigg'd and train'd up, and at two days' warning
 Fit for the service.

Duke. We commend your care;
 Nor will we e'er be wanting in our counsels,
 As we doubt not your action. You, Baptista,
 Shall stay with us; that merchant is not wise,
 That ventures his whole fortunes in one bottom.
 Albertus, be our admiral! spare your thanks;

⁸ *My opinion waits on you.*] The small change of *you to yours* takes all obscurity from this expression. *Seward.*

We think the old reading more suitable to the context, more in our Authors' style, and at least as free from obscurity.

'Tis merit in you that invites this honour;
 Preserve it such! Ere long you shall hear more.
 Things rashly undertaken end as ill;
 But great acts thrive when reason guides the will. [*Exe.*]

Enter three Gentlemen.

1 *Gent.* No question, 'twas not well done in Cefario
 To croiſ the horſe of young Mentivole
 In the miſt of this courſe.

2 *Gent.* That was not all;
 The ſwitching him dull'd him.

3 *Gent.* 'Would that both the jades
 Had broke their necks, when they firſt ſtarted! 'Slight,
 We ſtand here prating; give them leave to whiſper,
 And, when they have cut one another's throats,

Enter Mentivole and Cefario.

Make in to part 'em!

2 *Gent.* There is no ſuch hazard;
 Their fathers' friendſhip and their love forbid it:
 See where they come!

1 *Gent.* With fury in their looks.

Ment. You have the wager; with what foul play got
 I'll not diſpute.

Cef. Foul play?

Ment. I cannot ſpeak it

In a fairer language; and if ſome reſpects
 Familiar to myſelf chain'd not my tongue,
 I ſhould ſay—no more!²—I ſhould—but I'll ſit down
 With this diſgrace; howe'er, preſs me no further!
 For, if once more provok'd, you'll underſtand
 I dare no more ſuffer an injury,
 Than I dare do one.

Cef. Why, Sir, are you injur'd
 In that I take my right, which I would force,
 Should you detain it?

Ment. Put it to judgment!

2 *I ſhould ſay no more.*] Seward, tacitly and arbitrarily, reads, *I ſhould ſay more.* The preſent punctuation gives a ſpirit to the old text.

358 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Ces. No; my will in this shall carry it.

Ment. Your will? Nay, farewell softness then!

3 *Gent.* This I foresaw. [They suddenly draw.

2 *Gent.* Hold, hold!

Ces. I'm hurt.

2 *Gent.* Shift for yourself; 'tis death.

Ment. As you respect me, bear him off with care!
If he miscarry, since he did the wrong,
I'll stand the shock of't.

2 *Gent.* Gently! he will faint else——

[*Exeunt Gentlemen with Cesario.*

Ment. And speedily, I beseech you! My rage over,
That pour'd upon my reason clouds of error,
I see my folly, and at what dear loss
I have exchange'd a real innocence
To gain a mere fantastical report,
Transported only by vain popular wind,
To be a daring, nay, fool-hardy man.

Enter Baptista.

But, could I satisfy myself within here,
How should I bear my father's frowns? They meet me;
My guilt conjures him hither.

Bapt. Sirrah!

Ment. Sir.

Bapt. I've met the trophies of your ruffian sword;
Was there no other anvil to make trial
How far thou durst be wicked, but the bosom
Of him, which under the adulterate name
Of friendship thou hast murder'd?

Ment. Murder'd, Sir?

My dreams abhor so base a fact: True valour,
Employ'd to keep my reputation fair,
From the austereſt judge can never merit
To be branded with that title. You begot me
A man, no coward; And but call your youth
To memory! when injur'd, you could never
Boast of the ass's fortitude, slave-like patience;
And you might justly doubt I were your son,

If

If I should entertain it. If Cefario
 Recover, as I hope his wound's not mortal,
 A second trial of what I dare do
 In a just cause, shall give strong witness for me
 I am the true heir to Baptista's courage,
 As to his other fortunes.

Bapt. Boy, to neither,
 But on this strict condition, which entreaties
 From saints, nay angels, shall not make me alter.
 A friendship so began, and so continu'd
 Between me and Alberto my best friend,
 Your brawls shall not dissolve: It is my will,
 And as I am thy father I command thee,
 That instantly, on any terms, how poor
 Soe'er it skills not, thou desire his pardon,
 And bring assurance to me he has sign'd it,
 Or by my father's soul I'll never know thee,
 But as a stranger to my blood: Perform it,
 And suddenly, without reply! I've said it.

Ment. And in it given a heavier sentence on me
 Than the most cruel death: You are my father,
 And your will to be serv'd, and not disputed
 By me, that am your son: But I'll obey,
 And tho' my heart-strings crack for't, make it known,
 When you command, my faculties are your own. [*Exe.*

A C T II.

Enter Albertus, Physician, and a Surgeon.

Phys. **H**AVE patience, noble Sir! your son Cefario
 Will recover, without question.

Surg. A slight wound;
 Though't pierc'd his body, it hath miss'd the vitals.

Phys. My life for't, he shall take the air again
 Within these ten days!

Alb. Oh, but from a friend!

360 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

To receive this bloody measure from a friend!
 If that a man should meet a violent death,
 In a place where he had taken sanctuary,
 Would it not grieve him? Such all Florence held
 Their friendship; and 'tis that which multiplies
 The injury.

Phys. Have patience, worthy signor!

Alb. I do protest, as I am man and soldier,
 If I had buried him in a wave at sea,
 (Lost in some honourable action)
 I would not to the saltness of his grave
 Have added the least tear: But these quarrels,

Enter Mariana and Clarissa.

Bred out of game and wine! I had as lief
 He should have died of a surfeit.

Mar. 'Oh, what comfort?

How is it with our son, Sir?

Alb. His work-masters

Bear me in hand here, (as my lawyer does,
 When I've a crack'd title, or bad suit in law)
 All shall go well.

Mar. I pray you, gentlemen,
 What think you of his wound?

Phys. 'Tis but a scratch; nothing
 To danger.

Clar. But he receiv'd it from a friend;
 And the unkindness taken at that may kill him.

Mar. Let me see him.

Phys. By no means; he slumbers.

Mar. Then I cannot believe you, when you tell me
 There is hope of him.

Alb. Yet many ladies
 Do give more faith to their physician,
 Than to their confessor.

Clar. Oh, my poor lost brother!
 And friend, more dear than brother!

Alb. More loud instruments
 To disturb his slumbers? Go, go, take care!

And,

And, as you love me, you and the girl retire
T' our summer-house i'th' country : I'll be with you
Within these two days.

Mar. I am yours in all things,
Tho' with much sorrow to leave him.

Alb. I pray you, gentlemen, [*Exeunt Mar. & Clar.*]
With best observance tend your patient :
The loss of my heir male lies now a-bleeding ;

Enter Mentivole.

And think what payment his recovery
Shall shower upon you.—Of all men breathing,
[*Exeunt Physician and Surgeon.*]

Wherefore do you arrive here ? are you mad ?
My injury begins to bleed afresh
At sight of you. Why, this affront of yours
I receive more malicious than the other.
Your hurt was only danger to my son ; but
Your fight to me is death ! Why come you hither ?
D' you come to view the wounds which you have
made,

And glory in them ?

Ment. Rather, worthy Sir,
To pour oil into them.

Alb. I am a soldier,
Sir, least part of a courtier ; and understand
By your smooth oil, your present flattery——

Ment. Sir, for my father's sake, acknowledge me
To be born a gentleman, no slave ; I ever
Held flatterers of that breed : Do not misconstrue,
In your distaste of me, the true intent
Of my coming hither, for I do protest
I do not come to tell you I am sorry
For your son's hurt.

Alb. Not sorry ?

Ment. No, not sorry :
I have to th' lowest ebb lost all my fury,
But I must not lose my honesty. 'Twas he
Gave heat unto the injury, which return'd,

Like

362 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN,

Like a petard ¹⁰ ill lighted, into th' bosom
Of him gave fire to't: Yet, I hope his hurt
Is not so dangerous but he may recover;
When, if it please him call me to account
For th' loss of so much blood, I shall be ready
To do him noble reason.

Alb. You are arm'd
Methinks with wondrous confidence.

Ment. Oh, with the best, Sir;
For I bring penitence and satisfaction.

Alb. Satisfaction? Why, I heard you say but now,
You were not sorry for his wounds.

Ment. Nor am I;
The satisfaction which I bring, Sir, is to you.
You are a gentleman ne'er injur'd me;
One ever lov'd my father, the right way,
And most approv'd of noble amity;
Yet I have run my sword quite thro' your heart,
And slightly hurt your son; for't may be fear'd,
A grief ta'en at these years, for your son's loss,
May hazard yours: And therefore I am sent
By him that has most interest in your sorrow,
Who having chid me almost to the ruin
Of a disinheritance ¹¹, for violating
So continued and so sacred a friendship
Of fifty winters' standing ¹²; such a friendship,

¹⁰ *Petar.*] A *petard* or *petarre*, an engine (made like a bell or mortar) wherewith strong gates are burst open. *Cotgrave's Dictionary*.
R.

¹¹ *Who having chid me almost to the ruin
Of a disinheritance.*] Seward arbitrarily reads,
——— to my ruin,
To a disinheritance, &c.

¹² *So continued and so sacred a friendship
Of fifty winters standing; such a friendship,*

That ever did continue, &c.] 'Here, says Seward, seems a reiterated tautology in these lines very unlike and unworthy of our
'Authors.' For *continued*, therefore, he substitutes *constant*, which,
continues he, 'in the sense of *firm* and *unshaken* by accidents, keeps
'clear of the tautology complained of.' But changes should not be
arbitrarily made, only because the critic *supposes* them for the better.

That ever did continue like the spring,
 Ne'er saw the fall o'th' leaf; by him I am sent
 To say the wrong I've done, Sir, is to you,
 And that I have quite lost him for a father,
 Until I find your pardon. Nay, there follows
 A weightier deprivation: His estate
 I could with a less number of sighs part with;
 Fortune might attend my youth and my deservings
 In any climate; but a father's blessing,
 To settle and confirm that fortune, no where,
 But only here. Your pardon! give me that;
 And when you have done, kill me; for 'tis that
 Takes from me the effect of excommunication,
 A father's heavy curse.

Alb. Nay, may that curse
 Light on himself, for sending thee in this minute,
 When I am grown as deaf to all compassion,
 As the cruellest sea-sight, or most horrid tempest!
 That I had drown'd i'th' sea a thousand ducats,
 Thou hadst not made this visit! Rash young man,
 Thou tak'st me in an ill planet, and hast cause
 To curse thy father; for I do protest,
 If I had met thee in any part o'th' world,
 But under my own roof, I would have kill'd thee.
 Within there!—Look you! Here's a triumph sent for

Enter Physician, Surgeon, and Servants.

The death of your young master.

Serv. Shall we kill him?

Alb. No;

I'll not be so inhospitable. But, Sir,
 By my life, I vow to take assurance from you,
 That right-hand never more shall strike my son.

Ment. That will be easily protested.

Alb. Not easily,

When it must be exacted, and a bloody seal to't.
 Bind him, and cut off's right-hand presently:
 Fair words shall never satisfy foul deeds.
 Chop his hand off!

Ment. You cannot be so unrighteous

364 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN,

To your own honour.

Phys. Oh, Sir, collect yourself,
And recall your bloody purpose!

Alb. My intents
Of this nature do ever come to action.

Surg. Then I
Must fetch another stickler.

[*Exit,*

Alb. Yet I do grieve at heart;
And I do curse thy father heartily,
That's the cause of my dishonour, sending thee
In such an hour, when I am apt for mischief,
Apt as a Dutchman after a sea-fight,
When his enemy kneels afore him. Come, dispatch!

Phys. Entreat him, noble Sir.

Ment. You shall excuse me;
Whatsoever he dares do, that I dare suffer.

Enter Cesario and Surgeon.

Ces. Oh, Sir, for honour's sake, stay your foul
purpose;
For if you do proceed thus cruelly,
There is no question, in the wound you give him,
I shall bleed to death for't!

Alb. Thou art not of
My temper; what I purpose, can't be alter'd.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Sir, the Duke with all speed expects you:
You must instantly
Ship all your followers, and to sea.

Alb. My blessing
Stay with thee upon this condition,
Take away his use of fighting; as thou hop'st
To be accounted for my son, perform it! [*Exit.*

Ces. You hear what I'm enjoind to.

Ment. Pray thee, take it!
Only this ring, this best-esteemed jewel,
I will not giv't to th' hangman chops it off;
It is too dear a relick: I'll remove it
Nearer my heart.

Ces.

Cef. Ha! that ring's my sister's;
The ring I enjoin'd her never part withal
Without my knowledge.—Come, Sir, we are friends.
Pardon my father's heat, and melancholy;
Two violent fevers which he caught at sea,
And cannot yet shake of: Only one promise
I must enjoin you to, and seriously;
Hereafter you shall never draw a sword
To th' prejudice of my life.

Ment. By my best hopes,
I shall not!

Cef. I pray deliver me your sword,
On that condition.

Ment. I shall, Sir: May it hereafter
Ever fight on your part!

Cef. Noble Sir, I thank you:
But, for performance of your vow, I entreat
Some gage from you.

Ment. Any, Sir.

Cef. Deliver me that ring.

Ment. Ha! this ring? indeed this jewel binds me,
If you knew the virtue of it, never more
To draw my sword against you.

Cef. Therefore I
Will have it.

Ment. You may not.

Cef. Come, you must:
I that by violence could take your hand,
Can enforce this from you. This is a token, Sir,
That we may prove friends hereafter. Fare you well!

Phyf. Why did you seize his sword, Sir?

Cef. To perform
What my father bad me; I have for the present
Ta'en away his use of fighting.

Phyf. Better so,
Than take that which your father meant! [*Exeunt.*

Manet Mentivole.

Ment. Was ever the like usage? Oh, that ring,
Dearer

366 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Dearer than life ! whither is honour fled ?
Cefario, thou'rt unmanly in each part,
To feize my sword first, and then split my heart. [*Exit.*]

Enter Host and Clown.

Host. Thy master
That lodges here in my Osteria,
Is a rare man of art ; they say he's a witch.

Clown. A witch ? nay, he's one step of the ladder to
Preferment higher ; he's a conjurer.

Host. Is that his higher title ?

Clown. Yes, I assure you ;
For a conjurer's th' devil's master, and commands him ;
Whereas a witch is the devil's prentice,
And obeys him.

Host. Bound prentice to the devil ?

Clown. Bound and enroll'd I assure you, he can't
start ;
And therefore I would never wish any gentleman
To turn witch.

Host. Why, man ?

Clown. Oh, he loses his
Gentility by it ; the devil in this case cannot help him ;
He must go to the herald for new arms, believe it.

Host. As I'm true innkeeper, yet a gentleman born,
I'll ne'er turn witch for that trick ! And thou hast
Been a great traveller ?

Clown. No, indeed, not I, Sir.

Host. Come, you are modest.

Clown. No, I am not modest ;
For I told you a lie, that you might the better
Understand I have been a traveller.

Host. So, Sir !

They say your master's a great physician too ?

Clown. He was no fool told you that, I assure you.

Host. And you have been in England ? But they say,
Ladies in England take a great deal of physic.

Clown. Both ways, on my reputation.

Host. So 'tis to be understood :

But

But they say ladies there take physick for fashion.

Clown. Yes, Sir, and many times die to keep fashion.

Host. How!

Die to keep fashion?

Clown. Yes; I have known a lady

* Sick of the small-pox, only to keep her face
From pit-holes, take cold, strike them in again,
Kick up the heels, and vanish.

Host. There was kicking up
The heels with a witness!

Clown. No, Sir; I confess
A good face has many times been the motive to
The kicking up of the heels with a witness; but
this was not.

Enter Hostess and Bianca.

Host. Here come my wife and daughter.

Clown. You have

A pretty commodity of this nightworm.

Host. Why, man?

Clown. She is a pretty lure to draw
Custom to your ordinary.

Host. Dost think I keep her to that purpose?

Clown. When a dovehouse is empty, there is
cumin-feed

Used to purloin from the rest of the neighbours;
In England you have several adamants¹²,
To draw in spurs and rapiers¹³; one keeps silk-worms
In a gallery; a milliner has choice
O' monkees and paraketoes; another shews
Bawdy East-Indian pictures, worse than ever
Were Aretine's; a goldsmith keeps his wife
Wedg'd into his shop like a mermaid, nothing of her
To be seen (that's woman) but her upper part.

¹² *Adamants.*] i. e. *Loadstones*. See Skinner on the word. *Seward*.

¹³ *To draw in spurs and rapiers.*] In Ben Jonson's *Alchemist* is the same idea; *Subtle* says to *Abel Drugger*,

'Beneath your threshold bury me a *loadstone*,

'To draw in gallants that wear *spurs*.'

Host.

Host. Nothing but her upper part?

Clown. Nothing but her upper bodice,
And he lives at the more heart's ease.

Host. What's the reason?

Clown. Because her nether part can give no
temptation.

By your leave, Sir, I'll tend my master, and instantly
Be with you for a cup of cherrally this hot weather.

[*Exit.*

Host. A nimble-pated rascal! Come hither, daughter;
When was Cefario here?

Bian. Sir, not this fortnight.

Host. I do not like his visits; commonly
He comes by owl-light; both the time and manner is
Suspicious; I don't like it.

Bian. Sir, the gentleman
Is every way so noble, that you need not
Question his intent of coming: Tho' you did,
Pray, Sir, preserve that good opinion of me,
That tho' the custom of the place I was born in
Makes me familiar to every guest,
I shall in all things keep myself a stranger
To th' vices they bring with them!

Hostess. Right, my daughter!
She has the right strain of her mother.

Host. Of her mother?
An I would speak, I know from whence she took it.
When I was as young, I was as honest ¹⁴——

Hostess. Leave your prating,

¹⁴ *When I was as young, I was as honest.*] This has been hitherto made the conclusion of the *Host's* speech, by which it seems to have lost all its humour. It evidently belongs to the *Hostess*, who stops her husband from giving further hints concerning Bianca; and this is artfully contriv'd with regard to the audience, whose curiosities are heightened by a glimmering of the plot, but not too soon satisfied by a full view of it. To do this judiciously, is one of the greatest difficulties in almost every species of writing. *Seward.*

We think *Seward* totally mistaken here, and that the *Host* (instead of alluding to Bianca's real parentage) whimsically insinuates that her virtuous principles are derived from him.

And

And study to be drunk, and abuse your guests over and over !

Enter Forobosco and Clown.

Host. Peace, wife ; my honourable guest !

For. My endear'd landlord,
And the rest of the compliments of the house !

Host. Breakfast is ready, Sir ; it waiteth only
The tide of your stomach.

Clown. And mine gapes for't,
Like a stale oyster.

Host. Ere you go to bed¹⁵,
Fail not of that, I pray. [*Exe. all but For. and Clown.*]

For. We'll instantly be with you.—
Now we're all fellows: Nine o' clock, and no clients
come yet ?

Sure thou dost not set up bills enough.

Clown. I've set up
Bills in abundance.

For. What bills ?

Clown. Marry,
For curing of all diseases, recovery of stol'n goods,
And a thousand such impossibilities.

For. The place is unlucky.

Clown. No, certain 'tis scarcity of money ;
Do not you hear the lawyers complain of it ?
Men have as much malice as e'er they had to wrangle,
But they've no money.—Whither should this money
Be travell'd ?

For. To the devil, I think.

Clown. 'Tis with
His cofferer I'm certain, that's the usurer.

For. Our cheating does not prosper so well as
'Twas wont to do.

Clown. No, sure. Why, in England we

¹⁵ *Ere you go to bed, fail not of that, I pray.*] These words have hitherto been made a continuation of the *Clown's* speech ; but from him they seem devoid of meaning. If spoken by the *Host*, *aside*, we may very well understand by them, that the *Clown* gapes for his breakfast even before he goes to bed.

370 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Could cozen 'em as familiarly, as if
We'd travell'd with a brief, or a lottery.

For. In the Low-Countries we did pretty well.

Clown. So, so, as long as we kept the mop-headed
Butter-boxes sober; marry, when they were drunk,
'Then they grew buzzards: You should have them reel
Their heads together, and deliberate!

Your Dutchman, indeed, when he's foxt, is like a fox;
For when he's sunk in drink, quite earth to a man's
thinking,

'Tis full exchange-time with him, then he's subtlest.
But your Switzer, 'twas nothing to cheat him.

For. Nothing.

Clown. No, nor conscience to be made of it; for since
Nature aforehand cozen'd him of his wit,
'Twas the less sin for us to cozen him of his money.

For. But these Italians are more nimble-pated;
We must have some new trick for them. I protest,
But that our Hostess' daughter's a sweet lass,
And draws great resort to th' house, we were as good
Draw teeth a-horseback.

Clown. I told 'em in the market-place you could
conjure,
And nobody would believe me; but ere long
I'll make 'em believe you can conjure with such a
figuary!

For. What language shall's conjure in? High-Dutch
I think, that's full in the mouth.

Clown. No, no, Spanish;
That roareth best, and will appear more dreadful.

For. Prithee tell me thy conceit thou hast to gull
them.

Clown. No, no, I will not stale it¹⁶; but, my dear
jews-trump,
For thou art but my instrument, I'm the plotter,
And when we have cozen'd 'em most tightly, thou
Shalt steal away the innkeeper's daughter, I'll
Provide myself of another moveable;

¹⁶ No, no, I will not stale it.] Corrected in 1750.

THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN. 371

And we will most purely retire ourselves
To Geneva.

For. Thou art the compass I sail by. [Exeunt.]

Enter Baptista and Mentivole.

Bapt. Was ever expectation of so noble
A requital answered with such contumely !
A wild Numidian, that had suck'd a tigress,
Would not have been so barbarous : Did he threat
To cut thy hand off ?

Ment. Yes, Sir ; and his slaves
Were ready to perform't.

Bapt. What hinder'd it ?

Ment. Only his son's entreaty.

Bapt. Noble youth !
I wish thou wert not of his blood ; thy pity
Gives me a hope thou art not.

Ment. You mistake, Sir ;
The injury that follow'd from the son
Was worse than the father's : He did first disarm,
And took from me a jewel, which I prize
Above my hand or life.

Bapt. Take thy sword from thee ?
He stole it like a thief rather ; he could not
I th' field deprive thee of it.

Ment. He took it from me,
And sent me forth so thin, and so unmade-up,
As if I'd been a footboy.

Bapt. Oh, my fury !
I must now ask thee forgiveness, that my rashness,
Bred out of too much friendship, did expose thee
To so imminent a danger ; which I vow
I will revenge on the whole family.
All the calamities of my whole life,
My banishment from Genoa, my wife's loss,
Compar'd to this indignity, is nothing ;
Their family shall repair't ; it shall be to them
Like a plague, when the dog-star reigns most hot !
An Italian's revenge may pause, but's ne'er forgot :

[Exit.]

Ment.

372 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Ment. I would I had conceal'd this from my father,
For my interest in Clarissa ! My care now
Must be to untangle this division,
That our most equal flames may be united ;
And from these various and perturbed streams,
Rise, like a sweet morn, after terrible dreams. [*Exit.*

Enter Clarissa and Cesario.

Clar. Brother, I'm happy in your recovery.

Ces. And I, sister,
Am ever best pleas'd in your happiness.
But I miss a toy should be on your finger.

Clar. My ring !
This morning when I wash'd I put it off ;
'Tis in my window.

Ces. Where's your looking-glass ?

Clar. Here, Sir.

Ces. 'Tis a fair one.

Clar. 'Tis pure crystal.

Ces. Can a diamond cut in crystal ? Let me see ;
I'll grave my name in't.

Clar. Oh, you'll spoil my glass¹⁷.

Ces. Would you not have your brother in your eye ?
I'd thought he had been planted in your heart.
Look you ; the diamond cuts quaintly ; you are cozen'd,
Your crystal is too brittle.

Clar. 'Tis the ring
I gave unto Mentivole ! sure, the same !—
You put me to amazement, Sir, and horror :
How came you by that ring ?

Ces. Does the blood rise ?

Clar. Pray, Sir, resolve me, (oh, for pity do)
And take from me a trembling at the heart,
That else will kill me ! for I too much fear
Nothing but death could ravish it from his hand

¹⁷ *Clar.* Oh, you'll spoil my glass.

Would you not have your brother in your eye ?

Ces. I'd thought, &c.] This second line evidently belongs to *Cesario*, though given in the former editions to *Clarissa*. Mr. Symphon and Mr. Theobald concurred in this correction. *Seward.*

That wore it.

Cef. Was it given to Mentivole
On that condition?

Clar. Tell me of his health first,
And then I'll tell you any thing.

Cef. By my life, he's well;
In better health than I am.

Clar. Then, it was, Sir.

Cef. Then shall I ever hate thee, oh, thou false one!
Hast thou a faith to give unto a friend,
And break it to a brother? Did I not,
By all the ties of blood, importune thee
Never to part with it without my knowledge?
Thou might'st have given it to a muletter,
And made a contract with him in a stable,
At as cheap a price of my vengeance! Never more
Shall a woman's trust beguile me: You are all
Like relicks; you may well be look'd upon,
But come a man to th' handling of you once,
You fall in pieces!

Clar. Dear Sir, I've no way
Look'd either beneath reason, or myself,
In my election: There's parity in our blood,
And in our fortunes; ancient amity
Betwixt our parents; to which wants nothing, but
The fruit of blessed marriage between us,
To add to their posterities. Nor does now
Any impeachment rise, except the sad
And unexpected quarrel, which divided
So noble and so excellent a friendship,
Which, as I ne'er had magick to foresee,
So I could not prevent.

Cef. Well, you must give me leave
To have a hand in your disposing; I shall,
In th' absence of my father, be your guardian;
His suit must pass thro' my office. Mentivole?
He has too much o' my blood already; he has,
And he gets no more o't.—Wherefore weep you,
mother?

Enter Mariana and a Sailor.

Mar. 'Tis occasion'd by a sorrow
Wherein you have a child's part, and the mainest ;
Your father's dead.

Ces. Dead ?

Mar. There is one can
Relate the rest.

Sailor. I can, Sir ; your father's drown'd,
Most unfortunately drown'd.

Ces. How ? in a tempest ?

Sailor. No, Sir, in a calm,
Calm as this evening : The gunner, being drunk,
Forgot to fasten the ordnance to their ports,
When came a sudden gust, which tumbled them
All to the starboard side, o'erturn'd the ship,
And sunk her in a moment ; some six men
That were upon the deck were sav'd ; the rest
Perish'd wi' your father

Clar. Oh, my dearest father !

Ces. I pray thee, leave us. *[Exit Sailor,*

Mar. I have a sorrow of another nature
Equal to th' former.

Ces. And most commonly
They come together.

Mar. The family of the Baptisti
Are grown to faction, and upon distaste
Of th' injury late offer'd in my house,
Have vow'd a most severe and fell revenge
'Gainst all our family, but especially
'Gainst you, my dear Cesario.

Ces. Let them threat ;
I am prepar'd t' oppose them.

Mar. And is your loss then
Of so easy an estimation ? What comfort
Have I but in your life ? and your late danger
Presents before me what I am to suffer,
Should you miscarry : Therefore I'll advise you,
When th' funeral is over, you would travel ;

Both

Both to prevent their fury, and wear out
The injury.

Ces. No, mother, I'll not travel—
So in my absence he may marry my sister—
I will not travel certain.

Mar. Oh, my Cesario,
Whom I respect and love 'bove my own life,
Indeed with a kind of dotage! he shall never
Go forth o' doors, but the contrary faction
Will endanger his life; and then am I most wretched!
I'm thinking of a strange prevention,
Which I shall witness with a bleeding eye;
Fondness sometimes is worse than cruelty. [*Exeunt.*]

A C T III.

Enter Host, Hostess, and Biancha.

Host. **H**AUNTED, my house is haunted wi'
goblins! I shall
Be frighted out o' my wits, and set up a sign
Only t' invite carriers and foot-posts, scarecrows
To keep off th' cavalry, and gentry of the best rank.
I will nail up my doors, and wall up my girl,
Wife, like an anchoress; or she will be ravish'd
Before our faces by rascals and cacafugo's,
Wife, cacafugo's!

Hostess. These are your incomes!
Remember your own proverb, The favour
Of every gain smelt sweet: Thank nobody but yourself
For this trouble!

Host. No galling, dear spouse, no galling!
Every day's new vexation abates me
Two inches in the waist; terrible penance
For an Host! Girl, girl, girl, which of all this
Gallimaufry of man's flesh appears tolerable
To thy choice? speak shortly, and speak truly! I

376 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Must and will know, must and will! hear you that?

Bian. Sir, be not jealous of my care and duty!

I am so far from entertaining thoughts
Of liberty, that much more excellent objects
Than any of such coarse contents as these are,
Could not betray mine eye to force mine heart
Conceive a wish, of any dearer happiness
Than your direction warrants. I am yours, Sir.

Hostess. What thinks the man now? Is not this
strange

At thirteen?

Host. Very good words; there's a tang in 'em,
And a sweet one; 'tis music, wife; and now
I come t'ye. Let us a little examine
The several conditions of our
Paragraphistical suitors! The first
A trav'ling taylor, who by the mystery
Of's needle and thimble hath survey'd the fashions
Of th' French, and English; this signor Gingerbread,
Stitch'd up in the shreds of a gaudy outside,
Sows linings with his cross-leg'd compliment,
Like an ape doing tricks over a staff,
Cringes, and crouches, and kisses his fore-finger.

Hostess. Out upon him!

Host. A second, a lavoltère, a saltatory,
A dancer with a kit at's bum; one that,
By teaching great madonnas to foot it, has
Miraculously purchas'd a ribanded
Waistcoat, and four clean pair of socks; a fellow
That skippeth as he walketh, and instead
Of sensible discourse, venteth the curious
Conceit of some new tune stol'n from a masque,
Or a bawdy ditty, elevated for
The pole arctick of a lady's chamber;
In that file stands another of your inamoratoes.

Hostess. Hang him and his fiddle together! he ne'er
fiddles

Any child of ours.

Host. The third, a mongrel,

Got

Got by a Switzer on an Italian; this puppy,
Being left well estated, comes to Florence,
That the world may take notice, how impossible
It is for experience to alter
The course of nature; a fool, wife! and, indeed,
A clown turn'd gallant seldom or never proves
Other than a gallant fool; this toy prates
To little purpose other than—*What's o'clock?*
Shall's go drink? D'ye forsooth? and *Thank ye heartily.*
I fear no art in him to catch thee; and
Yet we must be tormented with this buzzard
Amongst the rest.

Hostess. 'Tis your own folly; forbid him the house.

Host. The fourth, a mule-driver, a stubborn and a
harsh knave;

The fifth, a schoolmaster, a very amorous pedant,
Run almost mad with study of sonnets¹⁸, and
Compliments out of old play-ends; the last,
An advocate's clerk, that speaks pure fustian in law-
terms¹⁹:

¹⁸ *Run almost mad with study of sonnets.*] All the Host's part in this scene, as the conjuror's in others, has been hitherto printed as prose; but the reader will see that without any strain (for I have scarce added or struck out a single expletive) it runs into an affected hobbling verse; which to me seems to add great humour to almost every sentiment, giving a comic dignity to the whole, which is of all drollery the most laudable. In this line a monosyllable seems evidently dropt, for the epithet *new* not only fills the measure, but makes a proper antithesis to the *old* in the next line, which is a proof of its having been originally a verse. *Seward.*

Though this note is just in the main, yet there are two things in it which call for animadversion. In the first place, the word *new* is not necessary to the measure, nor have we a right to CREATE *an antithesis*. In the second, though Mr. Seward says he has not used *any strain*, he has here (as in all other parts of his Edition) interpolated, omitted, and slaughtered words (similar instances see at the end of Wit Without Money) in a manner unprecedented and unparalleled.

¹⁹ *An advocate's clerk, that speaks pure fustian in law-terms.*] The particle *in*, here, equally hurts the sense as the measure, which is another proof of the measure's being genuine. *Seward.*

The word *in* neither hurts the sense, nor mars such licentious measure.

Excellent

378 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Excellent courtiers all, and all as neat
As a magnifico's post new painted, at
His entrance to an office! Thou shalt have
None of 'em. Laugh at 'em; do! I say,
Thou shalt have none of 'em.

Bian. Still your command to me shall stand a law.

Host. Now they throng like so many horse-couriers
At a fair, in clusters 'bout the man^of art,
For love-powders, ingredients, potions, counsels,
Postures, compliments, philters, the devil

[*Clown cries within.*

And the—How now? tumults, batteries, noise?

For. [*within.*] Ha, get from my sight²⁰!

Enter Forobosco, and Clown with his head bloody.

Clown. 'Murder me, do!

Pound me to mummy, do! see what will come on't.

For. Dog, leave thy snarling, or I'll cut thy tongue
out!

Thou unlick'd bear, dar'st thou yet stand my fury,
My generous rage? yet? By the sulphureous damps
That feed the hungry and incessant darkness,
Which curls around the grim Alastor's back,
Mutter again, and with one powerful word,
I'll call an host up from the Stygian lakes,
Shall waft thee to the Acherontick fens;
Where, choak'd with mists as black as thy impostures,
Thou shalt live still a-dying!

Clown. Conjure me to

The devil, an you can! I live in hell
Upon earth already: An you had any mercy,
You would not practise upon a kind heart thus.

Host. You have drawn blood from him;
Signor, is his offence unpardonable?

For. A lump of ignorance, (pray speak not for him)
A drowsy grossness! In all Christian kingdoms,

²⁰ *Ha, get from my sight.*] This has been made the conclusion of
the *Host's* speech, which evidently belongs to *Forobosco* as he enters.

Seward.

The

The mention of my art, my name, my practice,
Merit, and glory, hath begot at once
Delight and wonder.—I'll not be entreated;
Spare intercession for him!—Oh, thou scorn
Of learning, shame of duty, must thy sloth
Draw my just fame in question? I discharge thee
From my service; see me no more henceforth!

Clown. Discharge me?

Is that my year's wages? I will not be so answer'd,

For. Not, camel? firrah, I am liberal to thee
Thou hast thy life; be gone!

Clown. Vengeance, sweet vengeance!

For. D'ye mumble?

Clown. I'll be reveng'd, monstrously, suddenly, and
Insatiably: My bulk begins to swell.

For. *Homotolenton, pragmatophoros, beliofycorax!*

Clown. Call up your spirits! I defy 'em! Well,
I'll have law for my broken pate, (twelve ounces
Of pure blood, Troy-weight) in despite of thee
My master, and thy master the grand devil

Himself: *Vindicta, vindicta!* [Exit.

Host. Signor, you are exceeding mov'd.

Hostess. Mercy upon us, what terrible words thou
talk'st!

For. A slave, a cur!—But be not you affrighted,
Young virgin! 'twere an injury to sweetness,
Should any rougher sound draw from your cheeks
The precious tincture²¹, which makes Nature proud
Of her own workmanship.

Host. Wife, mark; mark that, wife!

Bian. Shake then your anger off, Sir.

For. You command it,

Fair one. Mine Host and Hostess, with your leaves,

²¹ Should any rough sound draw from your cheeks

The precious tincture, &c.] Mr. Symphon concurs with me in
reading, any rougher sound. 'Tis necessary to the verse, and every
man of the least taste knows how much more elegant the comparative
degree renders the expression. The compliment here is so extremely
beautiful, that I could have wished it had been put in the mouth of a
Cesario or Mentivole.

Seaward.

I have

380 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

I have a motion jointly to you all.

Hostess. An honest one, I hope.

Host. Well put in, wife!

For. A very necessary one: The mess
And half of suitors, that attend to usher
Their love's Sir-reverence to your daughter, wait
With one consent, which can best please her eye
In offering at a dance: I have provided
Music; and 'twill be something, I dare promise,
Worthy your laughter. Shall they have admittance?

Host. By any means; for I'm persuaded the manner
Will be so ridiculous, that it will confirm
The assurance of their miserable fooleries: But
No longer trouble with 'em here, than they
Are in these may-games!

For. So I am resolv'd.

Hostess. Nor any wise word of senseless love!

For. Not any; I have charm'd them. Did you see
How they prepar'd themselves, how they stroke up
Their foretops, how they juggle for the looking-glass,
To set their faces by it, (see, they muster!)
You would look for some most impossible antic.

*Enter Taylor, Dancer, Muletteer, Schoolmaster, Clerk²²,
Coxcomb; all with several papers, and present them
to Forobosco.*

Host. So, so, so, so! here flutter the nest of hornets,
The hotch-potch of rascality: Now, now, now, now!
The dunghill of corruption hath yawn'd forth
The burden of abomination. I am
Vex'd, vexed to the soul; will rid my house
Of this unchristen'd fry, and never open

²² *Schoolmaster, Clerk.*] I have added the *Coxcomb* to the number, Mr. Sympson having justly observ'd that the *mess and a half of suitors* were evidently six, and as the *Coxcomb* is one of them in the next scene in which they appear, and is the second in *Forobosco's* list, he ought evidently to have a place here. The reader will see how much more humorous my *Host's* next speech is when printed in its true order, as verse, than it was when the metre was disregarded.

Seward.

My

My doors again.

For. Some other time; I'll give no answer now,
But have preferr'd your suits; here shew your cunning.
First, every one in order do his honour
To the fair mark you shoot at; courtly, courtly,
Convey your several loves in lively measure:
Come, let us take our seats. Some sprightly music!

Host. Dance all and part; 'tis a very necessary farewell.

They all make ridiculous congees to Biancha, rank themselves and dance in several postures; during the dance, enter Cesario, and stands off.

Host. Well done, my lusty bloods, preciouslly well done!

One lusty rouse of wine, and take leave on all sides!

Ces. Thanks for your revels, gentlemen! accept
This gold, and drink as freely as you danc'd.

Host. My noble lord Cesario? Clear the rooms, Sirs!

For. Away; attend your answers. [*Exe. For. and suitors.*]

Ces. With your favour,
Rolando, I would change a word or two
With your fair daughter.

Host. At your lordship's pleasure.
Come, wife, no muttering! Have a care, girl! My love,
Service, and duty to your good lordship!

[*Exeunt Host and Hostess.*]

Ces. My often visits, sweet Biancha, cannot
But constantly inform thy judgment wherein
Thy happiness consists: For to steal minutes
From great employments, to converse with beauty,
Lodg'd in so mean a fortune; to lay by
Consideration of the unequal distance
Between my blood and thine; to shun occasions
Of courtship with the ladies of the time,
Noble and fair, only for love to thee;
Must of necessity invite a tenderness,
As low as Nature could have stamp'd a bondwoman's,
To entertain quick motions of rare gratitude
For my uncommon favours.

Bian.

382 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Bian. 'Deed, my lord,
As far as my simplicity can lead me,
I freely thank your courtesies.

Cef. To thank them
Is to reward them, pretty one.

Bian. Then teach me
How I may give them back again: In truth
I never yet receiv'd a pair of gloves,
A trifling ring, from any that expected
An equal satisfaction, but as willingly
I parted with the gift unto the owner,
As he bestow'd it.

Cef. But I pour before thee
Such plenties, as it lies not in the ability
Of thy whole kindred to return proportionable
One for a thousand.

Bian. You, my lord, conclude
For my instruction: To engage a debt
Beyond a possibility of payment,
I ever thought a sin; and therefore justly,
Without conceit of scorn, or curious rudeness,
I must refuse your bounty.

Cef. Canst thou love?

Bian. Love? is there such a word in any language
That carries honest sense?

Cef. Never dwelt Ignorance
In so sweet-shap'd a building!—Love, Biancha,
Is that firm knot which ties two hearts in one:
Shall ours be tied so?

Bian. Use a plainer word,
My lord; instead of *ties*, say *marries* hearts;
Then I may understand.

Cef. Their hearts are married,
Whose interchange of pleasures and embraces,
Soft kisses, and the privacies of sweets,
Keeps constant league together; when temptation
Of great mens' oaths and gifts shall urge contempt,
Rather than batter resolution: Novelty
Of sights, or taste of new delights in wantonness,
Breeds

Breeds surfeit more than appetite in any
 Reserv'd to noble vows: My excellent maid,
 Live thou but true to me, and my contents,
 Mine only, that no partner may partake
 The treasure of those sweets thy youth yet glories in,
 And I will raise thy lowness to abundance
 Of all varieties; and more triumph
 In such a mistress, than great princes doting
 On truth-betraying wives.

Bian. Thus to yield up then
 The cottage of my virtue, to be swallow'd
 By some hard-neighbouring landlord, such as you are,
 Is in effect to love? A lord so vicious?
 Oh, where shall Innocence find some poor dwelling,
 Free from Temptation's tyranny?

Ces. Nay, prithee!

Bian. Gay cloaths, high feeding, easy beds of lust,
 Change of unseemly sights, with base discourse,
 Draw curses on your palaces: For my part,
 This I will be confirm'd in; I will eat
 The bread of Labour, know no other rest
 Than what is earn'd from honest pains, ere once more
 Lend ear to your vile toils²³! Sir, 'would you were
 As noble in desires, as I could be
 In knowing Virtue! Pray do not afflict
 A poor soul thus.

Enter a Gentleman.

Ces. I swear——To me? [*Biancha steals off.*]

Gent. The Duke, my lord, commands your speedy
 presence,
 For answering aggrivances late urg'd
 Against you by your mother.

Ces. By my mother?

Gent. The court is near on sitting.

Ces. I wait on it, Sir.

[*Exeunt.*]

²³ To your vile toils.] Mr. Symphon would read *tales* for *toils*, which I cannot assent to; for small inconsistencies in metaphor are too common with all nervous writers to be supposed corruptions of the press.

Duke, Magistrates, Secretary, and Baptista, discovered sitting, Mentivole standing by, with attendants.

Duke. What waste of blood, what tumults, what divisions,

What outrages, what uproars in a state,
Factions, tho' issuing from mean springs at first,
Have (not restrain'd) flow'd to, the sad example
At Rome, between the Ursins and Colonnas,
Nay, here at home, in Florence, 'twixt the Neri
And the Bianchi, can too mainly witness.

I sit not at the helm, my lords, of sovereignty,
Deputed pilot for the commonwealth,
To sleep while others steer, as their wild fancies
Shall counsel, by the compass of disorders.

Baptista, this short preface is directed
Chiefly to you : The petty brawls and quarrels
Late urg'd betwixt th' Alberti and your family,
Must (yes, and shall) like tender unknit joints,
Fasten again together of themselves ;
Or, like an angry surgeon, we will use
The roughness of our justice, to cut off
The stubborn rancour of the limbs offending !

Bapt. Most gracious Florence——

Duke. Our command was signified,
That neither of the followers of each party
Should appear here with weapons.

Bapt. 'Tis obey'd, Sir,
On my side.

Duke. We must leave the general cause
Of state employments, to give ear to brawls
Of some particular grudges ; politic government
For tutor'd princes ! But no more ! henceforth

Enter Mariana and Clarissa at one door, Cesario at the other.

Our frown shall check presumption, not our clemency.

Mar. All blessings due unto impartial princes
Crown Florence with eternity of happiness !

Ces. If double prayers can double blessings, great Sir,
Mine

Mine join for your prosperity with my mother's.

Duke. Rise both! Now briefly, lady, without circumstance,

Deliver those aggrievances, which lately
Your importunity possess'd our counsel
Were fit for audience, wherein you petition'd
You might be heard without an advocate,
Which boon you find is granted.

Mar. Tho' divided

I stand between the laws of Truth and Modesty²⁴,
Yet let my griefs have vent! yet the clearness
Of strange necessity requires obedience
To Nature and your mercy! In my weeds
Of mourning, emblems of too-dear misfortunes,
Badges of griefs, and widowhood, the burden
Of my charg'd soul must be laid down before you;
Wherein, if strict opinion cancel shame,
My frailty is my plea. Stand forth, young man,
And hear a story that will strike all reason
Into amazement!

Ces. I attend.

Mar. Alberto,

(Peace dwell upon his ashes! still the husband
Of my remembrance and unchanging vows)
Has, by his death, left to his heir possession
Of fair revenue, which this young man claims
As his inheritance. I urg'd him gently,
Friendly, and privately, to grant a partage
Of this estate to her who owns it all,
This his supposed sister.

Bapt. How! supposed?

Ces. Pray, madam, recollect yourself.

Mar. The relish

Of a strange truth begins to work like physic
Already: I have bitterness to mingle

²⁴ *Mar. Though divided, &c.] Mariana's disowning Cesario for her son, and the Duke's injunction to marry him, is related by Caufin in his Holy Court, and is transcribed by Wanley in his History of Man, fol. book iii. chap. 26.*

386 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

With these preparatives, so deadly loathsome
It will quite choak digestion; shortly hear it:
Cesario, (for I dare not rob unjustly
The poor soul of his name) this, this Cesario,
Neither for father had Alberto, me
For mother, nor Clarissa for his sister.

Clar. Mother, oh, mother!

Ment. I am in a dream sure!

Duke. No interruptions! Lady, on.

Mar. Mistake not,

Great Duke of Tuscany, or the beginning
Or process of this novelty: My husband,
The now deceas'd Alberto, from his youth
Inur'd to an impatience and roughness
Of disposition, when not many months
After our marriage were worn out, repin'd
At the unfruitful barrenness of youth,
Which, as he pleas'd to term it, cut our hopes off
From blessing of some issue: To prevent it,
I grew ambitious of no fairer honour
Than to preserve his love; and as occasions
Still call'd him from me, studied in his absence
How I might frame his welcome home with comfort.
At last I feign'd myself with-child; the message
Of freedom, or relief, to one half starv'd
In prison, is not utter'd with such greediness
Of expectation and delight, as this was to
My much-affected lord: His care, his goodness,
(Pardon me, that I use the word) exceeded
All former fears. The hour of my deliverance,
As I pretended, drawing near, I fashion'd
My birth-rites²⁵ at a country garden house,
Where then my falconer's wife was brought a-bed
Of this Cesario: Him I own'd for mine,
Presented him unto a joyful father——

Duke. Can you prove this true?

Mar. Proofs I have most evident.

But oh, the curse of my impatience! shortly,

²⁵ *My birth-rights.*] The spelling rectified by Seward.

Ere three new moons had spent their borrow'd lights,
 I grew with-child indeed; so just is Heav'n!
 The issue of which burden was this daughter.
 Judge now, most gracious prince, my lords, and you,
 What combats then, and since, I have endur'd,
 Between a mother's piety, and weakness
 Of a soul-trembling wife! To have reveal'd
 This secret to Alberto, had been danger
 Of ruin to my fame, besides the conflict
 Of his distractions; now to have suppress'd it,
 Were to defeat my child, my only child,
 Of her most lawful honours, and inheritance.
 Cefario, thou'rt a man still; education
 Hath moulded thee a gentleman; continue so!
 Let not this fall from greatness sink thee lower
 Than worthy thoughts may warrant! yet disclaim
 All interest in Alberto's blood; thou hast not
 One drop of his or mine.

Duke. Produce your witness!

Mar. The falconer's wife his mother,
 And such women as waited then upon me,
 Sworn to the privacy of this great secret.

Duke. Give them all their oaths.

Cef. Oh, let me crave forbearance, gracious Sir!
 Vouchsafe me hearing!

Duke. Speak, Cefario.

Cef. Thus long
 I have stood silent, and with no unwillingness
 Attended the relation of my fall
 From a fair expectation: What I fear'd
 (Since the first syllable this lady utter'd
 Of my not being hers) benevolent Fates
 Have eas'd me of: For to be basely born,
 If not base-born, detracts not from the bounty
 Of Nature's freedom, or an honest birth.
 Nobility claimed by the right of blood
 Shews chiefly, that our ancestors deserv'd²⁶
 What we inherit; but that man whose actions

²⁶ *That our ancestors desir'd.*] Amended in 1750.

Purchase a real merit to himself,
 And ranks him in the file of Praise and Honour,
 Creates his own advancement: Let me want
 The fuel which best feeds the fires of greatness,
 Lordly possessions! yet shall still my gratitude,
 By some attempts, of mention not unworthy,
 Endeavour to return a fit acquittance
 To that large debt I owe your favours, madam,
 And great Alberto's memory and goodness.
 Oh, that I could as gently shake off passion
 For th' loss of that great brave man ²⁷, as I can
 shake off

Remembrance of what once I was reputed!
 I have not much to say; this princely presence
 Needs not too strictly to examine further
 The truth of this acknowledgment: A mother
 Dares never disavow her only son;
 And any woman must come short of piety,
 That can or disinherit her own issue,
 Or fears the voice of Rumour for a stranger.
 Madam, you have confess'd my father was
 A servant to your lord and you: By interest
 Of being his son, I cannot but claim justly
 The honour of continuing still my service
 To you and yours; which granted, I beg leave
 I may for this time be dismiss'd.

Duke. Bold spirit!

Bapt. I love thee now with pity.

Duke. Go not yet!—

A sudden tempest that might shake a rock,
 Yet he stands firm against it; much it moves me!—
 He not Alberto's son, and she a widow?
 And she a widow? Lords, your ear!

Omnes. Your pleasure? [*Whisper.*

Duke. So, lady; what you have avouch'd is truth?

Mar. Truth only, gracious Sir.

Duke. Hear then our sentence:

²⁷ ——— of what great brave ———
 ——— of that once I———] Corrected by Seward.

Since from his cradle you have fed and foster'd
Cesario as your son, and train'd him up
To hopes of greatness, which now in a moment
You utterly again have ruin'd, this way
We with our counsel are resolv'd ; you being
A widow, shall accept him for a husband.

Mar. Husband to me, Sir ?

Duke. 'Tis in us to raise him

To honours ; and his virtues will deserve 'em.

Mar. But, Sir, 'tis in no prince, nor his prerogative,
To force a woman's choice against her heart.

Duke. True ; if then you appeal to higher justice,
Our doom includes this clause upon refusal ;
Out of your lord's revenues shall Cesario
Assure to any, whom he takes for wife,
Th' inheritance of three parts ; the less remainder
Is dowry large enough to marry a daughter ;
And we, by our prerogative, which you question,
Will publicly adopt him into th' name
Of your deceas'd Alberto, that the memory
Of so approv'd a peer may live in him
That can preserve his memory : 'Less you find out
Some other means, which may as amply satisfy
His wrong, our sentence stands irrevocable.
What think you, lords ?

Omnes. The Duke is just and honourable.

Bapt. Let me embrace Cesario ! henceforth ever
I vow a constant friendship.

Ment. I remit
All former difference.

Ces. I am too poor
In words to thank this justice.—Madam, always
My studies shall be love to you, and duty.

Duke. Replies we admit none. Cesario, wait on us !
[*Exeunt.*

Maintenant Mentivole, Baptista, Mariana, and Clarissa,

Bapt. Mentivole !

Ment. My lord.

390 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Bapt. Look on Clarissa;
She's noble, rich, young, fair.

Ment. My lord, and virtuous.

Bapt. Mentivole, and virtuous.—Madam!

Mar. Tyranny

Of justice! I shall live Report's derision,
That am compell'd t' exchange a graceful widowhood
For a continual martyrdom in marriage,
With one so much beneath me.

Bapt. I'll plead for ye

Boldly and constantly, let your daughter only
Admit my son her servant: At next visit,
Madam, I'll be a messenger of comfort!
Mentivole, be confident and earnest! [Exit,

Mar. Married again? to him too? better it had been
The young man should have still retain'd the honours
Of old Alberto's son, than I the shame
Of making him successor of his bed:
I was to blame.

Ment. Indeed, without offence,
Madam, I think you were.

Clar. You urge it fairly,
And like a worthy friend.

Mar. Can you say any thing
In commendation of a mushroom, wither'd
As soon as started up?

Ment. You scorn an innocent
Of noble growth; for whiles your husband liv'd
I've heard you boast, Cesario in all actions
Gave matter of report, of imitation,
Wonder, and envy; let not discontinuance
Of some few days estrange a sweet opinion
Of virtue, chiefly when in such extremity!
Your pity, not contempt, will argue goodness.

Mar. Oh, Sir!

Clar. If you would use a thriving courtship,
You cannot utter a more powerful language,
That I shall listen to with greater greediness,
Than th' argument you prosecute: This speaks you
A man

A man complete and excellent.

Ment. I speak not;

They are his own deserts.

Mar. Good Sir, forbear!

I am now fully sensible of running
Into a violent lethargy, whose deadliness
Locks up all reason: I shall never henceforth
Remember my past happiness!

Ment. These clouds

May be dispers'd.

Mar. I fear continual night

Will overshroud me! Yet, poor youth, his trespass
Lies in his fortune, not the cruelty
Of the Duke's sentence.

Clar. I dare think it does.

Mar. If all fail, I will learn then to conquer
Adversity with sufferance.

Ment. You resolve nobly.

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T IV.

Enter Cesario and a Servant.

Ces. **L**ET any friend have entrance.

Serv. Sir, a' shall.

Ces. Any; I except none.

Serv. We know your mind, Sir.

[*Exit.*]

Ces. Pleasures admit no bounds. I'm pitch'd so high,
To such a growth of full prosperities,
That to conceal my fortunes were an injury
To gratefulness, and those more liberal favours
By whom my glories prosper. He that flows
In gracious and swoln tides of blest abundance²⁸,
Yet will be ignorant of his own fortunes,
Deserves to live contemn'd, and die forgotten:

²⁸ *Tides of best abundance.*] Former editions. Mr. Symphon con-
curred with me in the correction.

Seward.

The harvest of my hopes is now already
 Ripen'd and gather'd; I can fatten youth
 With choice of plenty, and supplies of comforts;
 My fate springs in my own hand, and I'll use it.

Enter two Servants and Biancha.

1 *Serv.* 'Tis my place.

2 *Serv.* Yours? Here, fair one; I'll acquaint
 My lord.

1 *Serv.* He's here; go to him boldly.

2 *Serv.* Please you
 To let him understand how readily
 I waited on your errand!

1 *Serv.* Saucy fellow!
 You must excuse his breeding.

Cef. What's the matter?
 Biancha? my Biancha?—To your offices!—[*Exc. Serv.*
 This visit, sweet, from thee, my pretty dear,
 By how much more 'twas unexpected, comes
 So much the more timely: Witness this free welcome,
 Whate'er occasion led thee!

Bian. You may guess, Sir;
 Yet indeed 'tis a rare one.

Cef. Prithee speak it,
 My honest virtuous maid.

Bian. Sir, I have heard
 Of your misfortunes; and I cannot tell you
 Whether I have more cause of joy or sadness,
 To know they are a truth.

Cef. What truth, Biancha?
 Misfortunes? how? wherein?

Bian. You are disclaim'd
 For being the lord Alberto's son, and publicly
 Acknowledg'd of as mean a birth as mine is:
 It cannot chuse but grieve you.

Cef. Grieve me? Ha, ha, ha, ha!
 Is this all?

Bian. This all?

Cef. Thou art sorry for't,

I warrant

I warrant thee: Alas, good soul, Biancha!
That which thou call'st misfortune is my happiness;
My happiness, Biancha!

Bian. If you love me,
It may prove mine too.

Cef. May it? I will love thee,
My good, good maid, if that can make thee happy,
Better and better love thee.

Bian. Without breach then
Of modesty, I come to claim the interest
Your protestations, both by vows and letters,
Have made me owner of: From the first hour
I saw you, I confess I wish'd I had been
Or not so much below your rank and greatness,
Or not so much above those humble flames
That should have warm'd my bosom with a temperate
Equality of desires in equal fortunes.
Still as you utter'd language of affection,
I courted Time to pass more slowly on,
That I might turn more fool to lend attention
To what I durst not credit, nor yet hope for;
Yet still as more I heard, I wish'd to hear more.

Cef. Didst thou in troth, wench?

Bian. Willingly betray'd
Myself to hopeless bondage.

Cef. A good girl!
I thought I should not miss, whate'er thy answer was.

Bian. But as I am a maid, Sir, (and i'faith
You may believe me, for I am a maid)
So dearly I respected both your fame
And quality, that I would first have perish'd
In my sick thoughts, than e'er have given consent
To have undone your fortunes, by inviting
A marriage with so mean a one as I am:
I should have died sure, and no creature known
The sickness that had kill'd me.

Cef. Pretty heart!
Good soul, alas, alas!

Bian. Now since I know

There

394 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

There is no difference 'twixt your birth and mine,
Not much 'twixt our estates, (if any be,
The advantage is on my side) I come willingly
To tender you the first-fruits of my heart,
And am content t' accept you for my husband,
Now when you are at lowest.

Cef. For a husband?

Speak sadly²⁹; dost thou mean so?

Bian. In good deed, Sir,

*Tis pure love makes this proffer.

Cef. I believe thee.

What counsel urg'd thee on? tell me; thy father?
My worshipful sinug Host? Was't not he, wench?
Or mother Hostess? ha?

Bian. D'you mock my parentage?

I do not scorn yours: Mean folks are as worthy
To be well spoken of, if they deserve well,
As some whose only fame lies in their blood.
Oh, you're a proud poor man! all your oaths falshood,
Your vows deceit, your letters forg'd and wicked!

Cef. Thoud'st be my wife, I dare swear.

Bian. Had your heart,

Your hand and tongue been twins, you had reputed
This courtesy a benefit.

Cef. Simplicity,

How prettily thou mov'st me! Why, Biancha,
Report has cozen'd thee; I am not fallen
From my expected honours or possessions,
'Tho' from the hope of birth-right.

Bian. Are you not?

Then I am lost again! I have a suit too;
You'll grant it, if you be a good man.

Cef. Any thing.

Bian. Pray do not talk of aught what I have said t'ye.

Cef. As I wish health, I will not!

²⁹ *Speak sadly*;] i. e. *Seriously*. So in *Much Ado about Nothing*, act ii. scene iii. 'This can be no trick: The conference was *sadly* borne.' Again, in *Promos and Cassandra*, 1578, quoted by Mr. Steevens, 'The king seigneth to talk *sadly* with some of his counsel.'

Bian. Pity me ;
But never love me more !

Cef. Nay, now you're cruel :
Why all these tears ?—Thou shalt not go.

Bian. I'll pray for you,
That you may have a virtuous wife, a fair one ;
And when I'm dead——

Cef. Fy, fy !

Bian. Think on me sometimes,
With mercy for this trespass !

Cef. Let us kiss
At parting, as at coming !

Bian. This I have
As a free dower to a virgin's grave,
All goodness dwell with you ! [Exit.

Cef. Harmless Biancha !
Unskill'd ! what handsome toys are maids to play with !

Enter Mariana and Clarissa.

How innocent !—But I have other thoughts
Of nobler meditation.—My felicity,
Thou com'st as I could wish : Lend me a lip
As soft, as melting, as when old Alberto,
After his first night's trial, taking farewell
Of thy youth's conquest, tasted !

Mar. You're uncivil !

Cef. I will be lord of my own pleasures, madam ;
You're mine, mine freely : Come, no whimpering
henceforth !

New con the lessons of Love's best experience,
That our delights may meet in equal measure
Of resolutions and desires ! this fullness
Is scurvy ; I like it not.

Mar. Be modest ;
And do not learn, Cefario, how to prostitute
The riot of thy hopes to common folly.
Take a sad woman's word ! howe'er thou dot'st
Upon the present graces of thy greatness,
Yet I'm not fallen so below my constancy

396 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

To Virtue, nor the care which I once tender'd
For thy behoof, that I prefer a sentence
Of cruelty before my honour.

Cef. Honour?

Mar. Hear me: Thou seest this girl, now the
comfort

Of my last days! she is the only pledge
Of a bed truly noble: She had a father
(I need not speak him more than thou remember'ft)
Whom to dishonour by a meaner choice
Were injury and infamy.

Clar. To goodness,
To time, and virtuous mention.

Mar. I have yow'd,
(Observe me now, Cefario!) that howe'er
I may be forc'd to marry, yet no tyranny,
Persuasions, flattery, gifts, entreats, or tortures,
Shall draw me to a second bed.

Clar. 'Tis just too.

Mar. Yes, and 'tis just, Clarissa. I allow
The Duke's late sentence, am resolv'd, young man,
To be thy wife; but when the ceremony
Of marriage is perform'd, in life I will be,
Tho' not in name, a widow.

Cef. Pray a word t'you!
Shall I in earnest never be your bedfellow?

Mar. Never, oh, never! and 'tis for your good too.

Cef. Prove that.

Mar. Alas, too many years are number'd
In my account to entertain the benefit
Which youth in thee, Cefario, and ability
Might hope for and require: It were injustice
To rob a gentleman deserving memory,
Of issue to preserve it.

Cef. No more! Herein
You are an excellent pattern of true piety.
Let me now turn your advocate. Pray look into
The order of the Duke enjoin'd; admit
I satisfy the sentence, without marriage

With

With you ! how then ?

Mar. Cefario !

Cef. If I know

How to acquit your fears, yet keep th' injunction

In every clause whole and entire, your charity

Will call me still your servant ?

Mar. Still my son.

Cef. Right, madam, now you have it, still your son :

The genius of your blessings hath instructed

Your tongue oraculously : We'll forget

How once I and Clarissa interchang'd

The ties of brother and of sister ; henceforth

New stile us man and wife.

Clar. By what authority ?

Cef. Heav'n's great appointment. Yet in all my
dotage

On thy perfections, when I thought, Clarissa,

We had been pledges of one womb, no loose,

No wanton heat of youth desir'd to claim

Priority in thy affections, other

Than Nature might commend ; chastely I tender'd

Thy welfare as a brother ought : But since

Our bloods are strangers, let our hearts contract

A long life-lasting unity ! for this way

The sentence is to be observ'd, or no way.

Mar. Then no way !

Cef. I expected other answer,
Madam, from you.

Mar. No ; every age shall curse me,
The monster and the prodigy of Nature !

Horrors beyond extremity——

Clar. Pray, mother,
Confine the violence of grief !

Cef. Yes, mother,
Pray do !

Mar. Thus some catch at a matron's honour
By flying Lust, to plot incestuous witchcrafts,
More terrible than whoredoms ; Cruel mercy !
When to preserve the body from a death

398 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

The soul is strangled !

Ces. This is more than passion ;
It comes near to distraction.

Mar. I am quieted.

Cesario, thou mayst tell the Duke securely,
Alberto's titles, honours, and revenues,
The Duke may give away ; enjoy them thou !
Clarissa's birth-right, Mariana's dower,
Thou shalt be lord of ; turn us to the world
Unpitied and unfriended ; yet my bed
Thou never sleep'st in. As for her, (she hears me)
If she as much as in a thought consent,
That thou mayst call her wife, a mother's curse
Shall never leave her.

Clar. As a brother once
I lov'd you, as a noble friend yet honour you ;
But for a husband, Sir, I dare not own you :
My faith is giv'n already.

Ces. To a villain ;
I'll cut his throat.

Mar. ' Why this is more than passion ;
' It comes near a distraction.'

Clar. Call to mind, Sir,
How much you have abated of that goodness
Which once reign'd in you, which appear'd so lovely,
That such as friendship led to observation,

Enter Baptista and Mentivole.

Courted the great example !

Ces. Left, and flatter'd
Into a broad derision ?

Mar. Why d'ye think so ?
My lord Baptista, is your son grown cold
In hasting on the marriage, which his vows
Have seal'd to my wrong'd daughter ?

Bapt. We come, lady,
To consummate the contract.

Ces. With Mentivole ?
Is he the man ?

Mentivole.

Ment. Clarissa's troth and mine,
Cesario, are recorded in a character
So plain and certain, that except the hand
Of Heav'n, which writ it first, would blot it out again,
No human power can raze it.

Ces. But say you
So too, young lady?

Clar. I should else betray
My heart to falshood, and my tongue to perjury.

Ces. Madam, you know the sentence.

Bapt. From the Duke
I have particular comforts, which require
A private ear.

Mar. I shall approve it gladly.
We are resolv'd, Cesario.

Bapt. Be not insolent
Upon a prince's favour!

Clar. Lose no glory,
Your younger years have purchas'd!

Ment. And deserv'd too;
You've many worthy friends.

Bapt. Preserve and use them! [*Exeunt. Manet Ces.*]

Ces. Good, very good! why here's a compliment
Of mirth in desperation! I could curse
My fate: Oh, with what speed men tumble down
From hopes that soar too high! Biancha now
May scorn me justly too; Clarissa married,
Alberto's widow resolute, Biancha
Refus'd, and I forsaken. Let me study!
I can but die a batchelor, that's the worst on't. [*Exit.*]

Enter Host, Taylor, Muletter, Dancer, Pedant, Coxcomb.

Host. Come, gentlemen;
This is the day that our great artist hath
Promis'd to give all your several suits satisfaction.

Dancer. Is he stirring?

Host. He hath been at his book
These two hours.

Pedant. He's a rare physician.

Host.

Host. Why, I'll tell you; were Paracelsus the German now

Living, he would take up his single rapier
Against his terrible long sword: He makes it
A matter o' nothing to cure the gout; sore eyes
He takes out as familiarly, washes them,
And puts them in again, as you'd blanch almonds.

Taylor. They say he can make gold.

Host. Ay, ay, he learnt it
Of Kelly in Germany³⁰. There's not a chemist
In Christendom can go beyond him
For multiplying.

Pedant. Take heed then he get not
Up your daughter's belly, my Host!

Host. You are
A merry gentleman, and the man of art
Will love you the better.

Dancer. Does he love mirth and crotchets?

Host. Oh, he's the most courteous physician! you
May drink or drab in's company freely; the better
He knows how your disease grows, the better he
Knows how to cure it.

Dancer. But I wonder, my Host,
He has no more resort of ladies to him.

Host. Why, Sir?

Dancer. Oh, divers of 'em have great belief
In conjurors: Lechery is a great help
To th' quality.

Host. He's scarce known to be
In town yet! ere long we shall have 'em come

³⁰ Kelly.] *Edward Kelly*, otherwise *Talbot*, an intimate friend of the famous *Dr. John Dee*, and concerned with him in his chemical processes and experiments. It is said they were in possession of the elixir, and actually made projection upon several metals, and converted them into gold. His History may be met with in *Wood's Athenæ Oxon.* vol. i. p. 279, and in *Weaver's Funeral Monuments*, p. 45, where are some incredible stories about him. He is mentioned by *Ben Jonson*, in the *Alchemist*, act iv. sc. i.

' ——— A man the emp'r'r

' Has courted above *Kelly*; sent his medals

' And chains t'invite him.' *See a full Account, R.*

Hurrying hither in feather-beds.

Dancer. How! bedridden?

Host. No, Sir; in feather beds that move upon
Four wheels, in Spanish caroches.

Pedant. Pray acquaint him
We give attendance.

Host. I shall, gentlemen.—
I'd fain be rid o' these rascals, but that they
Raise profit to my wine-cellar. When I have
Made use of them sufficiently, I'll entreat
The conjuror to tie crackers to their tails,
And send them packing.

Enter Forobosco as in his study.

For. Come hither, mine Host!
Look here.

Host. What's that?

For. A challenge from my man:

Host. For breaking's pate?

For. He writes here; if I meet him not i'th' field
Within this half-hour, I shall hear more from him.

Host. Oh, Sir, mind your profit;
Ne'er think of the rascal: Here are the gentlemen:

For. 'Morrow, my worthy clients!
What, are you all prepared of your questions,
That I may give my resolution upon them?

Omnes. We are, Sir.

Pedant. And have brought our money:

For. Each then
In order! and differ not for precedencey.

Dancer. I'm buying of an office, Sir, and to that
purpose

I would fain learn to dissemble cunningly.

For. Do you come to me for that? you should rather
have gone

To a cunning woman.

Dancer. Ay, Sir, but their instructions
Are but like women; pretty well, but not
To th' depth, as I would have it: You're a conjuror,
The devil's master, and I would learn it from

You so exactly——

For. That the devil himself
Might not go beyond you?

Dancer. You are i'th' right, Sir.

For. And so your money for your purchase might
Come in again within a twelvemonth?

Dancer. I

Would be a graduate, Sir, no fresh-man.

For. Here's my hand, Sir:

I'll make you dissemble so methodically,
As if the devil should be sent from the
Great Turk, i'th' shape of an ambassador,
To set all the Christian princes at variance.

Dancer. I can't with any modesty desire any more.
There's your money, Sir!

For. For the art of dissembling.

Coxc. My suit, Sir, will be news to you when I tell it.

For. Pray, on!

Coxc. I would set up a press here in Italy,
To write all the coranto's for Christendom.

For. That's news indeed;
And how would you employ me in it?

Coxc. Marry, Sir, from you I would gain my intel-
ligence.

For. I conceive you: You would have me
Furnish you with a spirit to inform you.

Coxc. But as quiet a devil as the woman
The first day and a half after she's married;
I can by no means endure a terrible one.

For. No, no, I'll qualify him; he sha'n't fright you:
It shall be the ghost of some lying stationer, a spirit
Shall look as if butter would not melt in's mouth;
A new *Mercurius Gallo-Belgicus*!³¹

Coxc. Oh, there was a captain was rare at it.

³¹ *Mercurius Gallo Belgicus.*] This was one of the first news-
papers which appeared in England. It is frequently mentioned by
contemporary writers; among others, by Thomas May, in act i. sc. i.
of his comedy of the Heir, 1633:

‘—————’Tis believ'd,

‘And told for news, with as much confidence

‘As if ’twere writ in *Gallo Belgicus.*’

For. Ne'er think of him.

Tho' that captain writ a full hand-gallop, and
Wasted indeed more harmless paper than
Ever did laxative physic, yet will I
Make you t' out-scribble him; and set down what
You please, the world shall better believe you.

Coxc. Worthy Sir, I thank you; there is money!

For. A new office for writing pragmatistical coranto's.

Pedant. I am a schoolmaster, Sir, and would fain
Confer with you about erecting four
New sects of religion at Amsterdam³².

For. What the devil should new sects of religion
Do there?

Pedant. I assure you I'd get a great deal
Of money by it.

For. And what are the four
New sects o' religion you would plant there?

Pedant. Why, that's it I come about, Sir; 'tis a devil
Of your raising must invent 'em; I confess
I am too weak to compass it.

For. So, Sir!
Then you make it a matter of no difficulty
To have them tolerated?

Pedant. Trouble not
Yourself for that; let but your devil set them
Afoot once, I have weavers, and gingerbread-makers,
And mighty aquavitæ-men, shall set them
A-going.

For. This is somewhat difficult;
And will ask some conference with the devil.

Pedant. Take
Your own leisure, Sir. I have another business too;
Because I mean to leave Italy, and bury myself in
Those nether parts the Low-Countries³³.

³² *Amsterdam.*] At the time our Authors wrote, *Amsterdam* appears to have been the place of refuge for sectaries of all denominations. See Ben Jonson's *Alchemist*. R.

³³ *Those nether parts of the Low-Countries.*] Former editions. The Poets meant to call the *Low-Countries* the nether parts of the world. Seaward.

404 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

For. What's that, Sir?

Pedant. Marry, I would fain make nine days to th' week,

For the more ample benefit of the captain.

For. You have a shrewd pate, Sir!

Pedant. But how this might

Be compass'd——

For. Compass'd easily; it is but making
A new almanack, and dividing the compass
Of the year into larger penny-worths,
As a chandler with his compass makes
A geometric proportion of the Holland cheese
He retails by stivers. But for getting of it licens'd?

Pedant. Trouble not yourself with that, Sir; there's
your money.

For. For four new sects of religions,
And nine days to the week.

Pedant. To be brought in

At general pay-days, write, I beseech you.

For. At general pay-days.

Taylor. I am by profession

A taylor; you have heard of me.

For. Yes, Sir,

And will not steal from you the least part of
That commendation I've heard utter'd.

Taylor. I

Take measure of your worth, Sir; and because
I will not afflict you with any large bill
Of circumstances, I'll snip off particulars:
I'd fain invent some strange and exquisite
New fashions.

For. Are you not travell'd, Sir?

Taylor. Yes, Sir,

But have observ'd all we can see, or invent,
Are but old ones with new names to 'em; now
I would some way or other grow more curious.

For. Let me see; to devise new fashions!—Were you
Ne'er in the moon?

Taylor. In the Moon-tavern? Yes, Sir,
Often.

For.

For. No, I do mean in the new world,
In th' world that's in the moon yonder.

Taylor. How!

A new world i'th' moon?

For. Yes, I assure you.

Taylor. And peopled?

For. Oh, most fantastically peopled.

Taylor. Nay, certain then there's work for taylors?

For. That

There is, I assure you.

Taylor. Yet I have talked

With a Scotch taylor that never discover'd

So much to me, tho' he has travell'd far,

And was a pedlar in Poland.

For. That

Was out of his way; this lies beyond China.

You'd study new fashions, you say? Take

My counsel, make a voyage, and

Discover that new world.

Taylor. Shall I be a moon-man?

For. I'm of opinion, the people of that world,

If they be like the nature of that climate

They live in, do vary the fashion of their cloaths

Off'n'r than any quick-silver'd nation

In Europe.

Taylor. Not unlikely; but what should that be

We call the man i'th' moon then?

For. Why, it is

Nothing but an Englishman that stands there

Stark-naked, with a pair of sheers in one hand,

And a great bundle of broad-cloth in t'other,

(Which resembles the bush of thorns) cutting out of

New fashions¹⁴.

¹⁴ *An Englishman that standeth there stark naked, with, &c.* Andrew Borde, a physician, in the reign of Henry VIII. published a book intituled, 'The Introduction of Knowledge, the whiche doth teache a Man to Speake Part of all Maner of Languages, and to know the Usage and Fashion of all Maner of Countries. Dedycated to the Right Honourable and Gracious Lady Mary, Daughter of King Henry the Eyght.' B. L. printed by W. Coplande. No date.

Taylor. I have heard somewhat like
This; but how shall I get thither?

For. I will
Make a new compass shall direct you.

Taylor. Certain?

For. Count me else for no man of direction.

Taylor. There's twenty ducats in hand; at my return
I'll give you a hundred.

For. A new voyage to discover
New fashions.

Mulet. I've been a traveller too, Sir;
That have shew'd strange beasts in Christendom,
And got money by them; but I find the trade to decay;
Your camelion, or East-Indian hedgehog,
Gets very little money; and your elephant
Devours so much bread, brings in so little profit,
His keeper were better every morning
Cram fifteen taylors with white manchet:
I would have some new spectacle, and one
That might be more attractive.

For. Let me see!
Were you ever in Spain?

Mulet. Not yet, Sir.

For. I would have you
Go to Madrid; and against some great festival,
When the court lieth there, provide a great
And spacious English ox, and roast him whole,
Wi' a pudding in's belly; that would be the eighth
Wonder of the world in those parts, I assure you.

Mulet. A rare project without question!

For. Go beyond all their garlick *olla podridas*,

Before the first chapter, in which he has characterized an Englishman,
is a wooden print of a naked man, with a piece of cloth hanging on
his right arm, and a pair of thiers in his left-hand: Under the print
is an inscription in verse, of which the following are the first four lines:

' I am an Englishman, and naked I stand here,
' Musyng in my mynde what rayment I shall were;
' For now I were thys, and now I will were that,
' And now I will were I cannot tell what, &c.'

This is evidently the print alluded to by our Author.

R.
Tho'

Tho' you fod one in Garguantua's cauldron³⁵!

Bring in more money than all the monsters of Africk!

Host. Good Sir, do your best for him; he's o' my acquaintance,

And one if you knew him——

For. What is he?

Host. He was once

A man of infinite letters.

For. A scholar?

Host. No, Sir,

A packet-carrier, which is always a man

Of many letters, you know; then he was

A mule-driver; now he's a gentleman,

And feeds monsters.

For. A most ungrateful calling!

Mulet. There's money for your direction! The price of the ox, Sir?

For. A hundred French crowns, for it must be A Lincolnshire ox, and a prime one. *For* A rare and monstrous spectacle, to be seen At Madrid.

Enter Clown, Hostess, and Bianca.

Hostess. Pray forbear, Sir! We shall have a new quarrel.

Clown. You durst not Meet me in the field! I am therefore come To spoil your market.

For. What's the news with you, Sir?

Clown. Gentlemen, you that come hither to be Most abominably cheated, listen, and be as wise As your planet will suffer you: Keep your money, Be not gull'd, be not laugh'd at!

Pedant. What means this?

'Would I had my money again in my pocket!

Host. The fellow's full of malice; do not mind him.

Clown. This profess'd cheating rogue was my master, and I confess myself

³⁵ In Garguantua's cauldron.] See Rabelais.

A more preternotorious rogue than himself,
In so long keeping his villainous counsel.

For. Come, come, I'll not hear you.

Clown. No, coz'ner, thou'lt not hear me ; I do but
Dare thee to suffer me to speak, and then thou
And all thy devils spit fire, and spout aquafortis !

For. Speak on; I freely permit thee.

Clown. Why then,
Know, all you simple animals, you whose purses
Are ready to cast the calf, if they have not
Cast it already, if you give any credit
To this juggling rascal, you are worse
Than simple widgeons, and will be drawn into
The net by this decoy-duck, this tame cheater.

Fer. Ha, ha, ha! Pray mark him!

He does profess physic, and conjuring;
 For his physic, he has but two medicines
 For all manner of diseases; when he was
 In the Low Countries, he us'd nothing
 But butter'd beer, colour'd with allegant,
 For all kind of maladies, and that he call'd
 His Catholic med'cine: Sure the Dutch smelt out
 'Twas butter'd beer¹⁶, else they would never have
 Endur'd it for the name's sake! Then does he minister
 A grated dog's turd 'stead of rhubarb, many times
 Of unicorn's horn, which working strongly with
 The conceit of the patient, would make them
 besummer

To th' height of a mighty purgation.

For. The rogue has studied this invective.

Clown. Now

For his conjuring, the witches of Lapland are

36 ————— *smelt out*

'*Twas butter'd beer*] Mr. Symphon seems to have mistaken the drollery of this passage. He says, that the reason given requires us to read—*smelt not out*. But the true intent of the passage seems plainly this. The Dutch would never have endur'd a medicine call'd *Catholick*, for the antipathy they bore to the most *Catholick King*, as well as the religion falsly so call'd, had not they by some instinct smelt out the *butter'd beer* which they are so fond of. *Seward*

The devil's chairwomen to him, for they
Will sell a man a wind to some purpose; he
Sells wind, and tells you forty lies over
And over.

Hostess. I thought what we should find of him.

Host. Hold your prating; be not you an heretick!

Clown. Conjure? I'll tell you; all th' devils' names
he calls upon are

But fustian names, gather'd out of Welch heraldry;
In brief, he is a rogue of six reprieves,
Four pardons o' course, thrice pilloried, twice sung

Lacrymæ

To th' virginals of a cart's tail, h' has five times
Been in the gallies, and will never truly
Run himself out of breath, 'till he comes to th' gallows.

For. You have heard, worthy gentlemen, what this
Lying, detracting rascal has vomited.

Taylor. Yes, certain; but we've a better trust in you;
For you have ta'en our money.

For. I have so.

Truth is, he was my servant, and for some chastisement
I gave him, he does practise thus upon me.

Speak truly, sirrah, are you certain I can't conjure?

Clown. Conjure? Ha, ha, ha!

For. Nay, nay, but be very sure of it.

Clown. Sure of it? why, I'll make a bargain with thee,
Before all these gentlemen, use all thy art
All thy roguery, and make me do any thing
Before all this company I've not a mind to,
I'll first give thee leave to claim me for thy bond-slave,
And when thou hast done hang me!

For. 'Tis a match;

Sirrah, I'll make you caper i'th' air presently.

Clown. I have too solid a body; and my belief
Is like a Puritan's on Good-Friday, too high-fed
With capon.

For. I will first send thee to Greenland
For a haunch of venison, just of the thickness
Of thine own tallow.

Clown.

410 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Clown. Ha, ha, ha! I'll not stir an inch for thee!

For. Thence to Amboyna i'th' East-Indies, for
pepper
To bake it.

Clown. To Amboyna? so I might
Be pepper'd³⁷.

For. Then will I convey thee stark
Naked to Dev'ling to beg a pair of brogs,
To hide thy mountainous buttocks.

Clown. And no doublet
To 'em?

For. No, Sir; I intend to send you of
A sleeveless errand: But before you vanish,
In regard you say I cannot conjure, and are
So stupid and opinionated a slave,
That neither I nor my art can compel you to
Do any thing that is beyond your own pleasure,
The gentlemen shall have some sport: You cannot
Endure a cat, firrah³⁸!

Clown. What's that to thee,
Juggler?

For. Nor you'll do nothing at my entreaty?

Clown. I'll be hang'd first.

For. Sit, gentlemen;
And whatsoever you see, be not frightened.

Hostess. Alas, I can endure no conjuring.

Host. Stir not, wife!

Bian. Pray let me go, Sir;
I'm not fit for these fooleries.

Host. Move not, daughter!

³⁷ To Amboyna? so I might be pepper'd.] Alluding to the massacre of the English in the settlement of *Amboyna* in the East-Indies, in the year 1622, by the Dutch. See 'A True Relation of the unjust, cruel, and barbarous Proceedings against the English at *Amboyna* in the East-Indies, by the Netherlandish Governor there;' 4to. Mr. Dryden has written a play upon this event. R.

³⁸ ——— cannot

Endure a cat, firrah?] One would think from the sequel that *cat* here should have been *frog*: I have known several changes as great as this. Seward.

For.

THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN. 411

For. I will make you dance a new dance call'd
leap-frog.

Clown. Ha, ha, ha!

For. And as naked as a frog.

Clown. Ha, ha, ha! I defy thee!

[*For.* looks in a book, strikes with his wand, musick plays.

Enter four boys shaped like frogs, and dance.

Pedant. Spirits of the water in the likeness of frogs!

Taylor. He has fish'd fair, believe me.

Mulet. See, see! he sweats and trembles.

For. Are you come to your quavers.

Clown. Oh, ho, ho!

For. I'll make you run division on those O's,
Ere I leave you³⁹! Look you, here are the play-fellows
That are so endear'd to you: Come, Sir; first uncase,
And then dance; nay, I'll make him dance stark naked.

Host. Oh, let him have his shirt on, and his mogul's
Breeches; here are women i'th' house.

For. Well, for their sakes he shall.

[*Clown tears off his doublet, making strange faces
as if compelled to it, falls into the dance.*

Taylor. He dances! what a lying rogue was this
To say the gentleman could not conjure!

For. He does

Prettily well; but it is voluntary, I assure you,
I've no hand in't.

Clown. As you are a conjurer,
And a rare artist, free me from these couplets!
Of all creatures I cannot endure a frog.

For. But your dancing's voluntary; I can compel you
To nothing.

³⁹ I'll make you run division on that or e'er I leave you.] The neglect of measure here has made the Editors drop a monosyllable equally necessary to the sense. What is —run division on that or e'er—It is an answer to the Clown's roar, *Oh, bo, bo*, one of which should be inserted, which just completes the verse.

I'll make you run division on that oh,

Or e'er I leave you. —

Seward.

First folio exhibits, *that o's ere I leave you*; we have therefore altered *that* to *those*.

Hostess.

412 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Hoftefs. Oh, me, daughter, let's take heed of
This fellow! he'll make us dance naked, an we vex
him. [*Exeunt Hoftefs and Bian.*]

For. Now cut capers, firrah; I'll plague that chine
of yours.

Clown. Ho, ho, ho! my kidnies are roasted!
I drop away like a pound of butter roasted!

Taylor. He'll dance himself to death.

For. No matter;
I'll sell his fat to the apothecaries,
And repair my injury that way.

Hofst. Enough in conscience!

For. Well, at your entreaty—Vanish! And now I'll
only [*Exeunt boys.*]

Make him break his neck in doing a somersault,
And that's all the revenge I mean to take of him.

Clown. Oh, gentlemen,
What a rogue was I to belie so an approv'd master
In th' noble dark science! You can witness,
This I did only to spoil his practice, and
Deprive you of the happiness of enjoying
His worthy labours: Rogue that I was to do it!
Pray, Sir, forgive me!

For. With what face canst thou
Ask it?

Clown. With such a face as I deserve,
With a hanging look, as all here can testify.

For. Well, gentlemen, that you may perceive
The goodness of my temper, I will entertain
This rogue again, in hope of amendment;
For should I turn him off, he would be hang'd.

Clown. You may read that in this foul copy.

For. Only with this promise;
You shall ne'er cozen any of my patients.

Clown. Never.

For. And remember henceforward,
That tho' I cannot conjure, I can make you
Dance, firrah. Go, get yourself into
The cottage again.

Enter

Enter Cefario.

Clown. I will ne'er more dance leap-frog.—Now
I have got you into credit, hold it up,
And cozen them in abundance.

For. Oh, rare rascal!

[*Exit Clown.*]

Cef. How now? a Frankford mart here ³⁹? a
mountebank

And his worshipful auditory?

Host. They are my guests, Sir.

Cef. A pox upon them! shew your juggling tricks in
Some other room.

Host. And why not here, Sir?

Cef. Hence,

Or, firrah, I shall spoil your figure-flinging,
And all their radical questions!

Omnes. Sir, we vanish.

[*Exeunt.*]

Manent Host and Cefario.

Host. Signor Cefario, you make bold with me,
And somewhat I must tell you to a degree of
Ill-manners: They're my guests, and men I live by,
And I would know by what authority you
Command thus far.

Cef. By my interest in
Your daughter.

Host. Interest, do you call't? As I remember,
I never put her out to usury
On that condition.

Cef. Pray thee be not angry;

Enter Bianca and Hostess.

I'm come to make thee happy, and her happy,
She's here: Alas, my pretty soul! I'm come

³⁹ *A Frankford mart.*] At Frankford, in Germany, two famous
marts or fairs were held every year, which used to be resorted to by
trading people and others, from every part of Europe: One was
kept in the month of March, the other in September, and they each
continued fourteen days. It happened that the famous Thomas Coriat
was there at the autumnal fair, in 1608, and he has very particu-
larly described it in his *Crudities*, p. 561.

414 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

To give assurance that's beyond thy hope,
Or thy belief; I bring repentance 'bout me,
And satisfaction: I will marry thee.

Bian. Ha!

Cef. As I live, I will; but do not entertain't
With too quick an apprehension of joy,
For that may hurt thee; I have heard some die of't.

Bian. Don't fear me.

Cef. Then thou think'st I feign
This protestation? I will instantly
Before these testify my new alliance,
Contract myself unto thee; then I hope
We may be more private.

Host. But thou shalt not, Sir;
For so has many a maidenhead been lost,
And many a bastard gotten.

Cef. Then to give you
The best of any assurance in the world,
Entreat thy father to go fetch a priest,
We will instantly to bed, and there be married.

Bian. Pride hath not yet forsaken you I see,
Tho' prosperity has.

Host. Sir, you're too confident
To fashion to yourself a dream of purchase,
When you're a beggar.

Cef. You are bold with me!

Hostess. Do we not know your value is cried down
Fourscore i' th' hundred?

Bian. Oh, Sir, I did love you
With such a fix'd heart, that in that minute
Wherein you slighted, or contemn'd me rather,
I took a vow to obey your last decree,
And never more look up at any hope
Should bring me comfort that way; and tho' since
Your foster-mother, and the fair Clarissa
Have in the way of marriage despis'd you,
That hath not any way bred my revenge,
But compassion rather. I have found so much
Sorrow in the way to a chaste wedlock,

That

THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN. 413

That here I will sit down and never wish
To come to th' journey's end : Your suit to me
Henceforth be ever silenc'd !

Cef. My Biancha !

Hostess. Henceforward pray forbear her and my house !
She's a poor virtuous wench ; yet her estate
May weigh with yours in a gold balance.

Host. Yes, and her birth in any herald's office
In Christendom.

Hostess. It may prove so ; when you'll say,
You've leap'd a whiting. [Exeunt.

Manet Cefario. Enter Baptista and Mentivole.

Cef. How far am I
Grown behind-hand with fortune !

Bapt. Here's Cefario !
My son, Sir, is tomorrow to be married
Unto the fair Clarissa.

Cef. So !

Ment. We hope
You'll be a guest there.

Cef. No ; I will not grace
Your triumph so much.

Bapt. I'll not tax your breeding,
But it alters not your birth, Sir ; fare you well !

Ment. Oh, Sir, do not grieve him ;
He has too much affliction already. [Exeunt.

Enter a Sailor.

Cef. Every way scorn'd and lost ! Shame follow you !
For I am grown most miserable.

Sailor. Sir, do you know
A lady's son in town here they call Cefario ?

Cef. There's none such, I assure thee.

Sailor. I was told
You were the man.

Cef. What's that to thee ?

Sailor. A pox on't !
You're melancholy ; will you drink, Sir ?

Cef.

641 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Cef. With whom?

Sailor. With me, Sir; despise not this pitch'd canvas! The time was, we have know them lin'd with Spanish Ducats. I've news for you.

Cef. For me?

Sailor. Not unless

You'll drink: We are like our sea provision,
Once out of pickle, we require abundance
Of drink. I've news to tell you, that were you prince,
Would make you send your mandate
To have a thousand bonfires made i' th' city,
And piss'd out again with nothing but Greek wine.

Cef. Come, I will drink with thee howsoever.

Sailor. And upon these terms I will utter my mind
to you. [Exeunt.]

A C T V.

Enter Albertus, Prospero, Juliana, and Sailors.

Sailor. SHALL we bring your necessaries ashore,
my lord?

Alb. Do what you please; I'm land-sick worse by far
Than e'er I was at sea.

Prof. Collect yourself.

Alb. Oh, my most worthy Prospero, my best friend,
The noble favour I receiv'd from thee,
In freeing me from the Turks, I now account
Worse than my death; for I shall never live
To make requital.—What do you attend for?

Sailor. To understand your pleasure.

Alb. They do mock me!—

I do protest I have no kind of pleasure
In any thing i' th' world, but in thy friendship;
I must ever except that.

Prof. Pray leave him, leave him! [Exe. Sailors.]

Alb. The news I heard related since my landing,
Of

Of the division of my family,
How is it possible for any man
To bear't with a set patience?

Prof. You have suffer'd,
Since your imprisonment, more weighty sorrows.

Alb. Ay, then I was a man of flesh and blood;
Now I'm made up of fire, to the full height
Of a deadly calenture: Oh, these vile women,
That are so ill preservers of mens' honours,
They cannot govern their own honesties!
That I should thirty and odd winters feed
My expectation of a noble heir,
And by a woman's falshood find him now
A fiction, a mere dream of what he was!
And yet I love him still.

Prof. In my opinion
The sentence, on this trial, from the Duke
Was noble, to repair Cefario's loss
With th' marriage of your wife, had you been dead.

Alb. By your favour, but it was not! I conceive 'twas
Disparagement to my name, to have my widow
Match with a falconer's son: And yet, believ't,
I love the youth still, and much pity him.
I do remember, at my going to sea,
Upon a quarrel, and a hurt receiv'd
From young Mentivole, my rage so far
O'er-topt my nobler temper, I gave charge
To have his hand cut off; which since I heard,
And to my comfort, brave Cefario
Worthily prevented.

Prof. And 'twas nobly done.

Alb. Yet the revenge for this intent of mine
Hath bred much slaughter in our families;
And yet my wife (which infinitely moans me⁴¹)
Intends to marry my sole heir, Clarissa,

⁴¹ (*Which infinitely moans me*).] *Moans* here is used actively, *causes me to moan*, as *grieves*, a word of the like import, often is; but perhaps this is a single instance of using *moans* in this manner; for which reason Mr. Sympfon proposes to read, *moves me*. *Steward.*

413 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

To the head branch of the other faction.

Prof. It is the mean to work reconciliation.

Alb. 'Tween whom?

Prof. Yourself and the worthy Baptista.

Alb. Never.

Prof. Oh, you have been of a noble and remarkable friendship;

And by this match 'tis generally in Florence
Hop'd, will fully be reconcil'd; to me
'Twould be absolute content.

Jul. And to myself;
I have main interest in it.

Alb. Noble Sir,

You may command my heart to break for you,
But never to bend that way. Poor Cesario,
When thou put'st on thy mournful willow garland,
'Thy enemy shall be suited, I do vow,
In the same livery! My Cesario,
Lov'd as my foster-child, tho' not my son,
Which in some countries formerly not barbarous⁴²,
Was a name held most affectionate; thou art lost,
Unfortunate young man! not only slighted
Where thou receiv'dst thy breeding, but since scorn'd
I'th' way of marriage, by the poor Biancha,
The innkeeper's daughter.

Prof. I have heard of that too;
But let not that afflict you! for this lady
May happily deliver at more leisure
A circumstance may draw a fair event,
Better than you can hope for. For this present,
We must leave you, and shall visit you again
Within these two hours.

⁴² Which in some countries formerly were barbarous,

Was a name held most affectionate.] It would be a poor reason for Alberto's love of Cesario as a *foster-child*, because barbarous nations held adopted children in the most affectionate esteem. Neither is the fact true. The adoption of children was a thing extremely usual in ancient Rome, but I don't at least remember any instance of it recorded amongst barbarians.

Seward.

Enter Cefario.

Alb. Ever to me most welcome!—

Oh, my Cefario!

Cef. I am none of yours, Sir,
So 'tis protested; and I humbly beg,
Since 'tis not in your power to preserve me
Any longer in a noble course of life,
Give me a worthy death!

Alb. The youth is mad.

Cef. Nay, Sir, I will instruct you in a way
To kill me honourably.

Alb. That were most strange.

Cef. I'm turning pirate; you may be employ'd
By th' Duke to fetch me in, and in a sea-fight
Give me a noble grave.

Alb. Questionless he's mad!
I would give any doctor a thousand crowns
To free him from this sorrow.

Cef. Here's the physician. *[Shews a poniard.]*

Alb. Hold, Sir; I did say
To free you from the sorrow, not from life.

Cef. Why, life and sorrow are unseparable.

Alb. Be comforted, Cefario! Mentivole shall not
Marry Clarissa.

Cef. No, Sir; ere he shall,
I'll kill him.

Alb. But you forfeit your own life then.

Cef. That's worth nothing.

Alb. Cefario, be thyself; be mine, Cefario!
Make not thyself incapable of that portion
I have full purpose to confer upon thee,
By falling into madness; bear thy wrongs
With noble Patience, the afflicted's friend,
Which ever in all actions crowns the end!

Cef. You've well awak'd me, nay, recover'd me
Both to sense and full life. Oh, most noble Sir,
Tho' I have lost my fortune, and lost you
For a worthy father; yet I will not lose

My former virtue ; my integrity
 Shall not yet forsake me : But as the wild ivy
 Spreads and thrives better in some piteous ruin
 Of tower, or defac'd temple, than it does
 Planted by a new building, so shall I
 Make my adversity my instrument
 To wind me up into a full content.

Alb. 'Tis worthily resolv'd ! Our first adventure's
 To stop the marriage : For thy other losses,
 Practis'd by a woman's malice, but account them
 Like conjurers' winds, rais'd to a fearful blast,
 And do some mischief, but do never last ! [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Forobosco and Clown.

Clown. Now, Sir, won't you acknowledge that I
 have
 Mightily advanc'd your practice ?

For. 'Tis confess'd ;
 And I will make thee a great man for it.

Clown. I take a course to do that myself, for
 I drink sack in abundance.

For. Oh, my rare rascal !
 We must remove.

Clown. Whither ?

For. Any whither ;
 Europe's too little to be cozen'd by us :
 I am ambitious to go to the East-Indies,
 Thou and I to ride upon our brace of elephants.

Clown. And for my part I long to be in England
 again ;

You'll ne'er get so much as in England ; we
 Have shifted many countries, and many names,
 But trace the world o'er you shall never purse
 Up so much gold as when you were in England,
 And call'd yourself doctor Lambstones.

For. It was
 An attractive name, I confess ; women were then
 My only admirers.

Clown. And all their visits

Were

Were either to further their lust, or revenge injuries.

For. You should have forty in a morning beleaguer
My closet, and strive who should be cozen'd first:
'Mongst fourscore love-sick waiting-women that have
come

To me in a morning to learn what fortune should
Betide 'em in their first marriage, I have found
'Beve ninety-four to've lost their maidenheads.

Clown. By their own confession;
But I was fain to be your male-midwife,
And work it out of them by circumstance.

For. Thou wast; and yet for all this frequent resort
Of women, and thy handling of their urinals
And their cases, thou'rt not given to lechery;
What should be th' reason of it? Th' hast wholesome
flesh

Enough about thee; and methinks the devil
Should tempt thee to it.

Clown. What need he do that?
When he makes me his instrument to tempt others.

For. Thou canst not chuse but utter thy rare good
parts?

Thou wast an excellent bawd, I acknowledge.

Clown. Well,
And what I have done that way—I'll spare to speak
Of all you and I have done, Sir; and tho' we should—

For. We will for England, that's for certain.

Clown. We
Shall never want there.

For. Want? their Court of 'Wards
Shall want money first; for I profess myself
Lord paramount o'er fools and mad folks.

Clown. Do
But store yourself with lies enough against
You come thither.

For. Why, that is all
The familiarity I ever had with the devil,
My gift of lying; they say he's the father of lies;
And tho' I cannot conjure, yet I profess

422 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Myself to be one of his poor gossips. I will
Now reveal to thee a rare piece of service.

Clown. What is it, my most worshipful doctor
Lambstones ?

For. There is a captain come lately from sea,
They call Prosper ; I saw him this morning,
Thro' a chink of wainscot that divides my lodging
And the Host of the house, withdraw my Host and
Hostess,

The fair Biancha, and an ancient gentlewoman,
Into their bedchamber :

I could not over-hear their conference,
But I saw such a mass of gold and jewels !
And when he had done he lock'd it up into a casket,
Great joy there was amongst them, and forth they're
gone

Into the city, and my Host told me
At's going forth he thought he should not return
'Till after supper : Now, Sir, in their absence
Will we fall to our picklocks, enter the chamber,
Seize the jewels, make an escape from Florence,
And we are made for ever !

Clown. But if they
Should go to a true conjurer, and fetch us
Back in a whirlwind ?

For. Don't believe there is
Any such fetch in astrology ! And this may be
A means to make us live honest hereafter.

Clown. 'Tis
But an ill road to't, that lies thro'
The highway of thieving.

For. For indeed I'm weary of
This trade of fortune-telling, and mean to give
All over, when I come into England ; for
It is a very ticklish quality.

Clown. And in the end will hang by a twine thread.

For. Besides, the island has too many of the profession ;
They hinder one another's market.

Clown. No, no,

The pillory hinders their market.

For. You know there

The juggling captain.

Clown. Ay; there's a fure card!

For. Only

The foreman of their jury's dead; but he
Died like a Roman.

Clown. Else 'tis thought he had
Made work for the hangman.

For. And the very Ball⁴³

Of your false prophets, he's quash'd too.

Clown. He did

Measure the stars with a false yard, and may now
Travel to Rome, with a mortar on's head, to see
If he can recover his money that way.

For. Come, come,

Let's fish for this casket, and to sea presently!

Clown. We shall never reach London, I fear; my
mind

Runs so much of hanging, landing at Wapping.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Mariana.

Mar. This well may be a day of joy long-wish'd-for
To my Clarissa; she is innocent,
Nor can her youth but with an open bosom
Meet Hymen's pleasing bounties: But to me,
That am environ'd with black guilt and horror,
It does appear a funeral⁴³: Tho' promising much
In the conception were hard to manage,

⁴² *Ball.*] i. e. *Baal*. The juggling captain so much spoke of in this play, as a news-writer and conjurer, Mr. Symphon takes to be one Banks, whom Ben Jonson ludicrously calls the English Pythagoras.
Seward.

⁴³ *It does appear a funeral; though promising much
In the conception were hard to manage
But [sad in the event.]* A whole line seems to have been lost here; the intention of the passage may be easily gathered. 'Her scheme, which promis'd much in the conception, proved hard to manage, and sad in the event.' I shall not venture my conjecture into the text, but propose it as the best that yet occurs;

424 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

But sad in the event. It was not hate,
 But fond indulgence in me, to preserve
 Cefario's threaten'd life, in open court
 That forc'd me to disclaim him, chusing rather
 To rob him of his birth-right, and honour,
 Than suffer him to run the hazard of
 Enrag'd Baptista's fury : While he lives,
 I know I have a son ; and the Duke's sentence
 Awhile deluded, and this tempest over,
 When he assures himself despair hath seiz'd him,
 [Knock within,

Enter Baptista,

I can relieve and raise him.—Speak, who is it
 That presses on my privacies ?—Sir, your pardon !
 You cannot come unwelcome, tho' it were
 To read my secret thoughts.

Bapt. Lady, to you
 Mine shall be ever open : *Lady*, said I ?
 That name keeps too much distance ! *sister* rather
 I should have stil'd you ; and I now may claim it,
 Since our divided families are made one
 By this bless'd marriage ; to whose honour comes
 The Duke in person, waited on by all
 The braveries of his court, to witness it,
 And then to be our guests. Is the bride ready
 To meet and entertain him ?

Mar. She attends
 The coming of your son.

Bapt. Pray you bring her forth.
 The Duke's at hand : Music, in her loud voice,
 Speaks his arrival.

Mar. She's prepar'd to meet it. [Exit,

*It does appear a funeral. My design
 Tho' promising much in the conception
 Was far too hard to manage, and doth prove
 But sad in the event : It was not hate, &c.*

Seward.

Enter

Enter Mariana, Clarissa led by two maids; at the other door, Baptista meets with Mentivole led by two courtiers; the Duke, Bishop, and divers attendants. A song, whilst they salute.

Duke. It were impertinent to wish you joy,
Since all joys dwell about you; Hymen's torch
Was never lighted with a luckier omen,
Nor burnt with so much splendor. To defer
With fruitless compliment the means to make
Your certain pleasures lawful to the world,
(Since in the union of your hearts they are
Confirm'd already) would but argue us
A boaster of our favours: To the temple!
And there the sacred knot once tied, all triumphs
Our dukedom can afford shall grace your nuptials,

Enter Albertus and Cesario.

Bapt. On there!

Ment. I hope it is not in the power
Of any to cross us now.

Alb. But, in the breath
Of a wrong'd father, I forbid the bans!

Ces. What, do you stand at gaze?

Bapt. Ris'n from the dead?

Mar. Altho' the sea had vomited up the figure
In which thy better part liv'd long imprison'd,
True love, despising fear, runs thus to meet it.

Clar. In duty I kneel to it.

Alb. Hence, vile wretches!

To you I am a substance incorporeal,
And not to be profan'd with your vile touch,
That could so soon forget me; but such things
Are neither worth my anger, nor reproof.
To you, great Sir, I turn myself, and these
Immediate ministers of your government;
And if in my rude language I transgress,
Ascribe it to the cold remembrance of
My services, and not my rugged temper!

Duke.

426 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Duke. Speak freely; be thy language ne'er so bitter,
To see thee safe, Alberto, signs thy pardon.

Alb. My pardon? I can need none, if it be not
Receiv'd for an offence; I tamely bear
Wrongs, which a slave-born Muscovite would check at.
Why, if for treason I had been deliver'd
Up to the hangman's axe, and this dead trunk,
Unworthy of a Christian sepulchre,
Expos'd a prey to feed the ravenous vulture,
The memory of the much I oft did for you,
(Had you but any touch of gratitude,
Or thought of my deservings) would have stopp'd you
From these unjust proceedings.

Duke. Hear the motives,
That did induce us.

Alb. I have heard them all;
Your highness' sentence, the whole court abus'd,
By th' perjuries and practice of this woman;
(Weepest thou⁴⁴, crocodile?) my hopeful son,
Whom I dare swear mine own, degraded of
The honours that descend to him from me;
And from that, in his love scorn'd by a creature
Whose base birth, tho' made eminent by her beauty,
Might well have mark'd her out Cefario's servant!
All this I could have pardon'd and forgot:
But that my daughter, with my whole estate
(So hardly purchas'd), is assign'd a dower,
To one whose father and whose family
I so detest that I would lose my essence,
And be transformed to a basilisk
To look them dead, to me's an injury
Admits no satisfaction!

Bapt. There's none offer'd.

Alb. Nor would it be accepted, tho' upon
Thy knees 'twere tender'd.

Mar. Now the storm grows high.

Bapt. But that I thought thee dead, and in thy death
The briny ocean had entomb'd thy name,

⁴⁴ Weepest thou.] Corrected by Seward.

I would have fought a wife in a bordello
For my Mentivole, and gladly hugg'd
Her spurious issue as my lawful nephews,
Before his blood should e'er have mix'd with thine;
So much I scorn it.

Alb. I'll not bandy words;
But thus dissolve the contract.

Bapt. There I meet thee;
And seize on what's mine own.

Alb. For all my service,
Great Sir, grant me the combat with this wretch,
That I may scourge his insolence!

Bapt. I kneel for it.

Cef. And to approve myself Alberto's son,
I'll be his second upon any odds,
'Gainst him that dare most of Baptista's race.

Ment. Already, upon honourable terms,
In me th' hast met thy better; for her sake
I'll add no more.

Alb. Sir, let our swords decide it!

Mar. Oh, stay, Sir; and as you would hold the title
Of a just prince, ere you grant licence to
These madmens' fury, lend your private ear
To the most distress'd of women!

Duke. Speak; 'tis granted. [*He takes Mar. aside.*]

Clar. In the mean time, let not Clarissa be
A patient looker-on! Tho' as yet doubtful
To whom to bend her knee first, yet to all
I stoop thus low in duty, and would wash
The dust of fury, with my virgin tears,
From his bless'd feet⁴⁵, and make them beautiful,
That would move to conditions of peace,
Tho' with a snail-like pace; they all are wing'd
To bear you to destruction! Reverend Sirs,
Think on your ancient friendship, cemented

⁴⁵ From his bless'd feet, and make them beautiful. &c.] The image in this line seems built on a passage in scripture: 'How beautiful are the feet of him that bringeth glad tidings!' The similarity of expression, as well as sentiment, strongly denotes imitation.

428 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

With so much blood, but shed in noble action,
 Divided now in passion for a brawl
 The makers blush to own! Much-lov'd Cefario,
 Brother, or friend, (each title may prevail)
 Remember with what tenderness from our childhood
 We lov'd together, you preferring me
 Before yourself, and I so fond of you
 That it begot suspicion in ill minds,
 That our affection was incestuous:
 Think of that happy time, in which I know
 That with your dearest blood you had prevented
 This shower of tears from me! Mentivole,
 My husband, register'd in that bright star-chamber,
 Tho' now on earth made strangers, be the example!
 And offer in one hand the peaceful olive
 Of concord; or, if that can be denied,
 By powerful intercession, in the other
 Carry the Hermian rod, and force atonement!
 Now we will not be all marble; death's the worst then,
 And he shall be my bridegroom. [*Offers to kill herself.*]

Ment. Hold, Clarissa!

This loving violence I needs must offer:
 In spite of honour ⁴⁶——

[*He snatches away her knife, and sets it to his own breast; she stays his hand.*]

Duke. Was it to that end then?

On your religion?

Mar. And my hope in Heaven, Sir!

Duke. We then will leave entreaties, and make use
 Of our authority. Must I cry aim ⁴⁷
 To this unheard-of insolence? in my presence
 To draw your swords, and, as all reverence
 That's due to majesty were forfeited,
 Cherish this wildness? Sheath them instantly,
 And shew an alteration in your looks;
 Or, by my power——

⁴⁶ *Ment.* Hold, Clarissa, his loving violence needs must
 Offer in spite of honour.] Former editions. Seward.

⁴⁷ Must I cry aim.] See note 71 on the False One.

Alb. Cut off my head !

Bapt. And mine !

Rather than hear of peace with this bad man,
I'll not alone give up my throat, but suffer
Your rage to reach my family.

Enter Prospero, Juliana, and Biancha.

Alb. And my name

To be no more remember'd.

Duke. What are these ?

Ces. Biancha ? 'tis Biancha, still Biancha !
But strangely alter'd.

Bapt. If that thirteen years
Of absence could raze from my memory
The figure of my friend, I might forget thee ;
But if thy image be graven on my heart,
Thou art my Prospero.

Prof. Thou my Baptista.

Duke. A sudden change !

Bapt. I dare not ask, dear friend,
If Juliana live ; for that's a blessing
I am unworthy of ! but yet deny not
To let me know the place she hath made happy,
By having there her sepulchre.

Prof. If your highness
Please to vouchsafe a patient ear, we shall
Make a true relation of a story
That shall call on your wonder.

Duke. Speak ; we hear you.

Prof. Baptista's fortune in the Genoa court,
His banishment, with his fair wife's restraint,
You are acquainted with ; what since hath follow'd
I faithfully will deliver. Ere eight moons
After Baptista's absence were complete,
Fair Juliana found the pleasures, that
They had enjoy'd together, were not barren,
And, blushing at the burden of her womb,
No father near to own it, it drew on
A violent sickness, which call'd down compassion

From

430 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

From the angry Duke; then, careful of her health,
Physicians were enquir'd of, and their judgment
Prescrib'd the baths of Lucca as a means
For her recovery : To my charge it pleas'd her
To be committed ; but as on the way
We journied, those throes, only known to women,
Came thick upon her : In a private village——

Bapt. She died ?

Prof. Have patience ! She brought to the world
A hopeful daughter : For her body's sickness,
It soon decay'd ; but the grief of her mind
Hourly encreas'd, and life grew tedious to her ;
And, desperate e'er to see you, she enjoin'd me
To place her in a Greekish monastery,
And to my care gave up her pretty daughter.

Bapt. What monastery ? as a pilgrim bare-foot,
I'll search it out.

Prof. Pray you interrupt me not.
Now to my fortunes ! The girl well dispos'd of
With a faithful friend of mine, my cruel fate
Made me a prisoner to the Turkish gallies,
Where for twelve years these hands tugg'd at the oar ;
But Fortune tir'd at length with my afflictions,
Some ships of Malta met the Ottoman fleet,
Charg'd them, and boarded them, and gave me freedom.
With my deliverers I serv'd, and got
Such reputation with the Great-Master,
That he gave me command over a tall
And lusty ship, where my first happy service
Was to redeem Alberto, rumour'd dead,
But was, like me, surpriz'd by Cortugoly.

Alb. I would I had died there !

Prof. And from him learning
Baptista liv'd, and their dissolved friendship,
I hois'd up sails for Greece, found Juliana
A votary at her beads : Having made known
Both that you liv'd, and where you were, she borrow'd
So much from her devotion, as to wish me
To bring her to you. If the object please you,

With

With joy receive her!

Bapt. Rage, and fury, leave me!

[Throws away his sword.]

I am so full of happiness, there's no room left

To entertain you. Oh, my long-lost jewel,

Light of mine eyes, my soul's strength!

Jul. My best lord!

Having embrac'd you thus, death cannot fright me.

Bapt. Live long to do so, tho' I should fix here!—

Pardon me⁴⁸, Prospero, tho' I enquire

My daughter's fortune!

Prof. That your happiness

May be at all parts perfect, here she is!

Ces. Biancha daughter to a princess?

Prof. True.

Wi' my faithful Host I left her, and with him

'Till now she hath resided, ignorant

Both of her birth and greatness.

Bapt. Oh, my blest one!

Joy upon joy o'erwhelms me!

Duke. Above wonder!

Alb. I do begin to melt too; this strange story

Works much upon me.

Duke. Since it hath pleas'd Heav'n

To grace us with this miracle, I that am

Heav'n's instrument here, determine thus: Alberto,

Be not unthankful for the blessings shewn you,

Nor you, Baptista! Discord was yet never

A welcome sacrifice; therefore, rage laid by,

Embrace as friends, and let pass'd difference

⁴⁸ *Pardon me, Prospero, tho' I enquire.*] I see no reason for asking Prospero's pardon for enquiring after his daughter; he might think Juliana might expect to engross his whole thoughts, and would therefore naturally ask her pardon for taking them from her; especially as he had just before said, that he could even fix himself for ever to the spot where she stood. I therefore put into the text what seems a more natural reading. *Seward.*

Seward reads,

But *pardon me*, tho' of Prospero *I enquire*;

but surely there is no impropriety in *civilly* desiring *pardon* for the request of encreasing so long a story.

432 THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN.

Be as a dream forgotten!

Bapt. 'Tis to me.

Alb. And me; I thus confirm it.

Duke. And to tie it

In bonds not to be broken, with the marriage
Of young Mentivole and fair Clarissa,
So you consent, great lady, your Biancha
Shall call Cesario husband.

Jul. 'Tis a motion

I gladly yield to.

Ces. One in which you make

A sad man happy.

[*Offers to kneel.*]

Bian. Kneel not! all forgiven.

Duke. With' th' duke your uncle I will make atonement,
And will have no denial.

Enter Host, Ferobosco, Clown, and officers.

Mar. Let this day

Be still held sacred!

Host. Now if you can conjure,

Let the devil unbind you.

Fer. We are both undone!

Clown. Already we feel it.

Host. Justice, Sir!

Duke. What are they?

Prof. I can resolve you; slaves freed from the gallies
By the viceroy of Sicilia.

Duke. What's their offence?

Host. The robbing me of all my plate and jewels;
I mean, the attempting of it.

Clown. Please your Grace,

I'll now discover this varlet in earnest;
This honest pestilent rogue profess'd the art
Of conjuring; but all the skill that e'er
He had in the black art, was in making
A sea-coal fire; only with wearing
Strange shapes, he begot admiration
'Mongst fools and women.

Fer. Wilt thou peach, thou varlet?

Duke.

THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN. 433

Duke. Why does he goggle with his eyes, and stalk so?

Clown. This is one of his magical raptures.

For. I do vilify⁴⁹

Your censure! You demand, if I am guilty;
Whir—says my cloak, by a trick of legerdmain!
Now I'm not guilty; I am guarded with
Innocence, pure silver lace, I assure you.

Clown. Thus have I read to you your virtues, which
Notwithstanding I would not have you proud of.

For. Out, thou concealment of tallow, and counterfeit mummy!

Duke. To th' gallies with them both!

Clown. The only sea-physic
For a knave, is to be basted in a galley,
With the oil of a bull's pizzle.

For. And will not you
Make a sour face at the same sauce, sirrah? I hope
To find thee so lean in one fortnight, thou
Mayst be drawn by the ears thro' the hoop of a firkin.

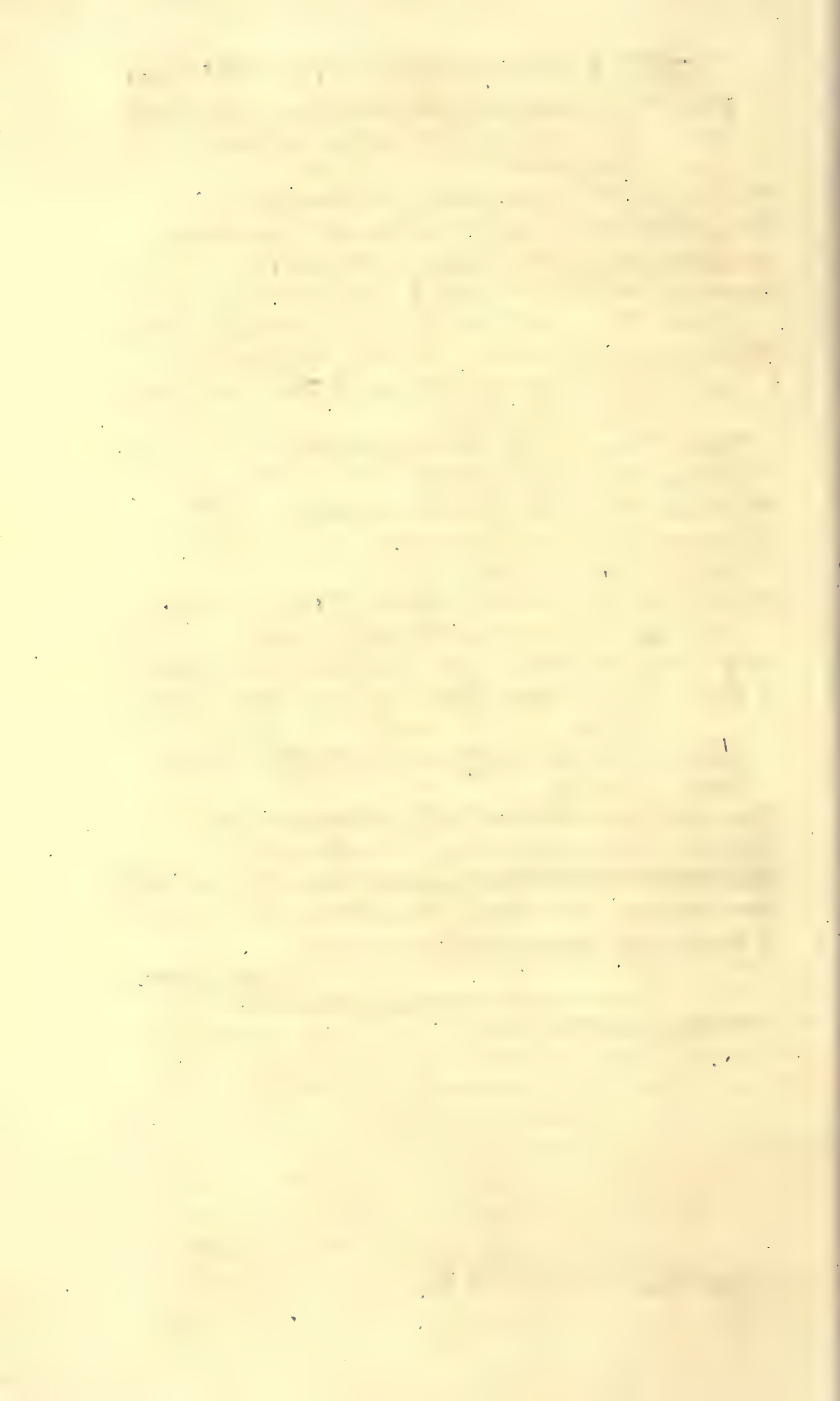
Duke. Divide them, and away with them to the
gallies!

Clown. This will take down your pride, juggler.

Duke. This day,
That hath giv'n birth to blessings beyond hope,
Admits no criminal sentence. To the temple,
And there with humbleness, praise Heaven's bounties!
For blessings ne'er descend from thence, but when
A sacrifice in thanks ascends from men.

[*Exeunt omnes.*

⁴⁹ *Vilify* ;] i. e. *Hold cheap.*



CUPID'S REVENGE.

A T R A G E D Y.

This Play seems to be the acknowledged production of both Writers. It was first printed in quarto, 1625 ; but has not been altered, that we can discover, or acted, many years.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

Cupid.

Leontius, *the old duke of Lycia.*

Leucippus, *son to the duke.*

Ismenus, *nephew to the duke.*

Telamon, *a Lycian lord.*

Dorialus, }
Agenor, } *courtiers.*
Nifus, }

Timantus, *a villainous sycophant.*

Zoilus, *Leucippus's dwarf.*

Nilo, *sent in commission to pull down Cupid's images.*

Priest to Cupid.

Four young Men and Maids.

Four Citizens.

W O M E N.

Hidaspes, *daughter to the duke.*

Cleophila, }
Hero, } *her attendants.*

Bacha, *a strumpet.*

Urania, *her daughter.*

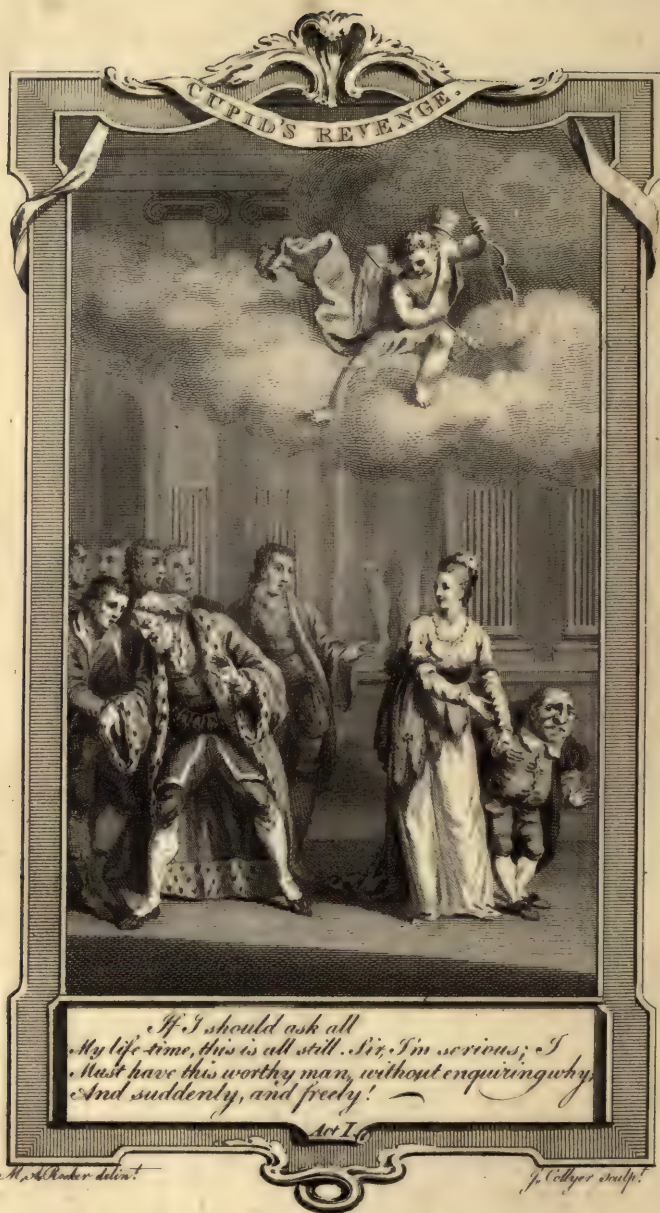
Bacha's Maid.

Urania's Maid.

Servants and Attendants.

C U P I D ' S





Published, as the Act directs, Dec. 1. 1777, by J. Sherlock, Bow-Street.

CUPID'S REVENGE.

A C T I.

Enter Dorialus, Agenor, and Nisus.

Agenor. **T**RUST me, my lord Dorialus, I had miss'd of this, if you had not call'd me; I thought the princess's birth-day had been tomorrow.

Nisus. Why, did your lordship sleep out the day?

Dor. I marvel what the duke meant to make such an idle vow.

Nisus. Idle? why?

Dor. Is't not idle, to swear to grant his daughter any thing she shall ask on her birth-day? she may ask an impossible thing; and I pray Heav'n she do not ask an unfit thing, at one time or other: 'Tis dangerous trusting a man's vow upon the discretion of his daughter.

Age. I wonder most at the marquis her brother, who is always vehemently forward to have her desires granted.

Dor. He's acquainted with 'em before.

Age. She's doubtless very chaste and virtuous.

Dor. So is Leucippus her brother.

Nisus. She's twenty years old; I wonder
She ask not a husband.

Dor. That were a folly in her, having refus'd
All the great princes in one part of the world;

She'll die a maid.

Age. She may ask but once, may she?

Nisus. A hundred times this day, if she will:
And, indeed, every day is such a day; for tho'
The duke has vow'd it only on this day,
He keeps it every day; he can deny
Her nothing.

Cornets. Enter *Hidaspes, Leucippus, Leontius, Timantus,*
and *Telamon.*

Leon. Come, fair *Hidaspes*! thou art duchess to-day.
Art thou prepar'd to ask? thou know'st my oath
Will force performance. And, *Leucippus*, if
She now ask aught that shall or would have performance
After my death, when by the help of Heav'n
This land is thine, accursed be thy race,
May every one forget thou art my son,
And so their own obedience——

Leuc. Mighty Sir,
I do not wish to know that fatal hour,
That is to make me king: But if I do,
I shall most heartily, (and like a son)
Perform your grants to all, chiefly to her.—
Remember that you ask what we agreed upon.

Leon. Are you prepar'd? then speak.

Hid. Most royal Sir,
I am prepar'd, nor shall my will exceed
A virgin's bounds; what I request shall both
At once bring me a full content'.

Leon. So't ever does.
Thou only comfort of my feeble age,
Make known thy good desire! for I dare swear
Thou lov'st me.

Hid. This is it I beg,
And on my knees: The people of your land,

——— *What I request shall both*

At once bring me a full content.) From the answer of *Leontius*,
it is plain some words are dropt here, signifying that her request shall
content her father as well as herself.

The Lycians, are, thro' all the nations
That know their name, noted to have in use
A vain and fruitless superstition;
So much more hateful, that it bears the show
Of true religion, and is nothing else
But a self-pleasing bold lasciviousness.

Leon. What is it?

Hid. Many ages before this,
When every man got to himself a trade,
And was laborious in that chosen course,
Hating an idle life far worse than death,
Some one that gave himself to wine and sloth,
Which breed lascivious thoughts, and found himself
Contemn'd for that by every painful man²,
To take his stain away, fram'd to himself
A god, whom he pretended to obey,
In being thus dishonest; for a name
He call'd him Cupid. This created god
(Man's nature being ever credulous
Of any vice that takes part with his blood)
Had ready followers enow; and since
In every age they grew, especially
Amongst your subjects, who do yet remain
Adorers of that drowsy deity,
Which drink invented; and the winged boy
(For so they call him) has his sacrifices³,

² *And found himself conjoin'd*

For that by every painful man.] I know no meaning of the word *conjoin'd* that will suit the context, *condemn'd* is the natural word. Our Poet's scheme in this Play (which has many excellent things in it) seems to me quite amazing. That this just speech should be esteemed such an act of real impiety, as to receive the most shocking punishment ending in the murder and utter extirpation of the whole family, is surely a strange outrage on poetical justice, as well as on all the circle of moral virtues. I find Mr. Theobald has prevented me in the correction above, and Mr. Symphon has since sent me his reading, *contemn'd*. *Seaward.*

The next line rather warrants *contemn'd* than *condemn'd*.

³ ——— *and the winged boy,*

*(For so they call him) has his sacrifices,
These loose naked statues through the land,
And in every village, nay the palace*

And these loose naked statues thro' the land,
 In every village; nay the palace' self
 Is not free from 'em. This is my request,
 That these erected obscene images
 May be pluck'd down and burnt, and every man
 That offers to 'em any sacrifice
 May lose his life.

Leon. But be advis'd,
 My fairest daughter! if he be a god,
 He will express it upon thee, my child;
 Which Heaven avert!

Leuc. There is no such power;
 But the opinion of him fills the land
 With lustful sins: Every young man and maid,
 That feel the least desire to one another,
 Dare not suppress it, for they think it is
 Blind Cupid's motion; and he is a god!

Leon. This makes our youth unchaste: I am resolv'd.
 Nephew Ismenus, break the statues down
 Here in the palace, and command the city
 To do the like: Let proclamations
 Be drawn, and hastily sent thro' the land,
 To the same purpose!

Ism. Sir, I'll break down none
 Myself, but I'll deliver your command:
 Hand I'll have none in't, for I like it not.

Leon. Go, and command it.—Pleasure of my life,
 Wouldst thou aught else? Make many thousand suits;
 They must and shall be granted.

Hid. Nothing else. [Exit Ismenus.]

Leon. But go and meditate on other suits:
 Some six days hence I'll give thee audience again,
 And, by a new oath, bind myself to keep it.
 Ask largely for thyself: Dearer than life,

Is not free from 'em.—] Here are certainly deficiencies both in measure and sense: The change of points, the removal of the *and* from the beginning of one line to the line above it, and the addition of a particle that adds strength to the sentiment seems the most probable method of restoring the original.

Seward.

In whom I may be bold to call myself
More fortunate than any in my age,
I will deny thee nothing !

Leuc. 'Twas well done, sister.

[*Exeunt all but the three lords.*]

Nisus. How like you this request, my lord ?

Dor. I know not yet, I am so full of wonder !
We shall be gods ourselves shortly,
An we pull 'em out of Heav'n o' this fashion.

Age. We shall have wenches now when we can
catch 'em,
An we transgress thus.

Nisus. An we abuse the gods once,
'Tis a justice we should be held at hard meat. For
my part,

I'll e'en make ready for mine own affection ;
I know the god incens'd must send a hardness
Thro' all good womens' hearts, and then we have
Brought our eggs and muscadine to a fair market :
'Would I had given an hundred pound for a toleration,
That I might but use my conscience in mine own house !

Dor. The duke, he's old and past it ; he would never
Have brought such a plague upon the land else ; 'tis
worse

Than sword and famine ! Yet, to say truth,
We have deserv'd it, we have liv'd so wickedly,
Every man at his livery ; and 'would that
Would have sufficed us ! we murmur'd at
This blessing, that was nothing ; and cried out
To th' god for endless pleasures : He heard us, and
Supplied us, and our women were new still,
As we needed 'em ; yet we, like beasts,
Still cried, ' Poor men can number their whores ⁴ ;
give us

⁴ *Poor men can number their woers.*] *Woers* for *mistresses* is uncommon, but a word very near it is quite suitable to the character of the speaker, *whores*. After I had inserted this in the text, I found in Mr. Theobald's margin another conjecture, *woathers* for *woers*, with a Latin quotation, *Pauperis est numerare pecus*, as a proof of it. But my conjecture is much nearer the trace of the letters, as well as
a more

' Abundance !' we had it, and this curse withal.

Age. By'r lady, we are like to have a long Lent on't ;
Flesh shall be flesh now ! Gentlemen, I had rather
Have anger'd all the gods than that blind gunner.
I remember, once the people did but slight him
In a sacrifice, and what follow'd : Women kept
Their houses, and grew good huswives, honest forsooth !
Was not that fine ? wore their own faces ^s, nay,
They let us wear gay cloaths without surveying ; and,
Which was most lamentable, they lov'd their husbands.

Nisus. I do remember it to my grief, young maids
Were as cold as cucumbers, and much of that
Complexion ; bawds were abolish'd ; and (to which
Misery it must come again) there were no cuckolds.
Well, we'd need pray to keep these devils from us ;
The times grow mischievous.—There he goes ! Lord !

Enter one with an image.

This is a sacrilege I have not heard of !
' Would I were gelt, that I might not feel what follows !

Age. And I too. You shall see within these few years,
A fine confusion i' th' country ; mark it !
Nay, an we grow for to depose the powers,
And set up Chastity again—Well, I have done !
A fine new goddess certainly, whose blessings
Are hunger and hard beds !

Nisus. This comes of fullness,
A sin too frequent with us ; I believe now
We shall find shorter commons.

a more natural expression ; for *weathers* being of the masculine gender will never suit this place, though *pecus* might. *Seward.*

^s *Wore their own faces,*

Tho' they wear gay cloaths without surveying,

And which was most lamentable,

They lov'd their husbands.]

The reader will find the metre here easily restored, but the sense, which seems quite lost in the second line, is not so readily recovered. The only conjecture that seems tolerable is what I venture into the text with great diffidence, but the reader had better have even a false reading with sense, than one without it.

Seward.

Dor.

Dor. 'Would I were married ! somewhat has some
favour ;

The race of gentry will quite run out now,
'Tis only left to husbands ; if younger sisters
Take not the greater charity, 'tis lawful.

Age. Well, let come what will come, I am but one,
And as the plague falls, I will shape myself :
If women will be honest, I'll be sound. ,
If the god be not too unmerciful,
I'll take a little still, where I can get it,
And thank him, and say nothing.

Nisus. This ill wind yet may blow the city good,
And let them (if they can) get their own children,
They have hung long enough in doubt : But, how-
soever,

The old way was the surer ; then they had 'em.

Dor. Farewell, my lords ! I'll e'en take up what rent
I can before the day ; I fear the year
Will fall out ill.

Age. We'll with you, Sir. And, Love, so favour us,
As we are still thy servants ! Come, my lords ;
Let's to the duke, and tell him to what folly
His doting now has brought him. [Exeunt.

Enter Priest of Cupid, with four young men and maids.

Priest. Come, my children, let your feet
In an even measure meet !
And your chearful voices rise,
To present this sacrifice
To great Cupid ! in whose name,
I his priest begin the same.
Young men, take your loves and kifs ;
Thus our Cupid honour'd is.
Kifs again, and in your kissing
Let no promises be missing !
Nor let any maiden here
Dare to turn away her ear,
Unto the whisper of her love ;
But give bracelet, ring, or glove,

As

As a token to her sweeting,
 Of an after secret meeting !
 Now, boy, sing, to stick our hearts
 Fuller of great Cupid's darts !

S O N G .

Lovers, rejoice ! your pains shall be rewarded,
 The god of love himself grieves at your crying ;
 No more shall frozen honour be regarded,
 Nor the coy faces of a maid denying ⁶ .
 No more shall virgins sigh, and say ' We dare not,
 ' For men are false, and what they do they care not.'
 All shall be well again ; then do not grieve ;
 Men shall be true, and women shall believe.

Lovers, rejoice ! what you shall say henceforth,
 When you have caught your sweethearts in your arms,
 It shall be accounted oracle, and worth :
 No more faint-hearted girls shall dream of harms,
 And cry ' They are too young : ' The god hath said,
 Fifteen shall make a mother of a maid :
 Then, wise men, pull your roses yet unblown !
 Love hates the too-ripe fruit that falls alone.

After a measure, enter Nilo and others.

Nilo. No more of this ! here break your rites for ever ;
 The duke commands it so. Priest, do not stare !
 I must deface your temple, tho' unwilling,
 And your god Cupid here must make a scarecrow,
 For any thing I know, or, at the best,
 Adorn a chimney-piece.

Priest. Oh, sacrilege unheard-of !

Nilo. This will not help it. Take down their images,
 And away with 'em !
 Priest, change your coat, you had best ; all service now
 Is given to men ; prayers above their hearing
 Will prove but babblings ; learn to lie and thrive,

⁶ *Nor the coy faces of a maids denying.*] Mr. Symphon has improved this line by striking off the *s* from *maids*.

Seward.

'Twill

'Twill prove your best profession : For the gods,
He that lives by 'em now must be a beggar,
There's better holiness on earth, they say ;
Pray God it ask not greater sacrifice ! Go home ;
And if your god be not deaf as well as blind,
He will make some smoke for it,

Gent. Sir——

Nilo. Gentlemen,

There is no talking ; this must be done and speedily :
I have commission that I must not break.

Gent. We're gone, to wonder what shall follow.

Nilo. On

To the next temple !

[*Exeunt.*]

Cornets. *Cupid descends.*

Cupid. Am I then scorn'd ? is my all-doing will
And power, that knows no limit, nor admits none,
Now look'd into by less than gods, and weaken'd ?
Am I, whose bow struck terror thro' the earth
No less than thunder, and in this exceeding
Even gods themselves, whose knees before my altars,
Now shook off ? and contemn'd by such, whose lives
Are but my recreation ? Anger, rise !
My sufferance and myself are made the subject
Of sins against us. Go thou out, displeasure !
Displeasure of a great god³, fly thyself
Thro' all this kingdom ; fow whatever evils
Proud flesh is taking of, amongst these rebels ;
And on the first hearts that despise my greatness
Lay a strange misery, that all may know
Cupid's Revenge is mighty ! With this arrow,

¹ ——— *whose knees before my altars*

Now shook off.] There is, as Seward observes, 'a great deficiency here both in grammar and sense, and reason to suspect a whole line to have been lost ;' which he supposes might have been like the following ;

————— *whose knees before my altars*

In zealous supplication oft have bent.

³ *Displeasure of a great god, fly thyself.*] So quarto ; other copies, *fly* ; and Seward, from Theobald's conjecture, reads *fling*.

446 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Hotter than plagues of mine own anger, will I
Now nobly right myself; nor shall the prayers,
Nor sweet smokes on my altars, hold my hand,
'Till I have left this a most wretched land. [*Ascends,*

Enter Hidaspes and Cleophila.

Hid. Cleophila, what was he that went hence?

Cleo. What

Means your Grace now?

Hid. I mean that handsome man,
That something more than man, I met at door,

Cleo. Here was no handsome man.

Hid. Come, he's some one
You would preserve in private; but you want
Cunning to do it, and my eyes are sharper
Than yours, and can with one neglecting glance
See all the graces of a man. Who was it?

Cleo. That went hence now?

Hid. That went hence now? ay, he!

Cleo. Faith, here was no such one as your Grace
thinks:

Zoilus, your brother's dwarf, went out but now.

Hid. I think 'twas he: How bravely he pass'd by!
Is he not grown a goodly gentleman?

Cleo. A goodly gentleman, madam?
He's the most deformed fellow in the land.

Hid. Oh, blasphemy! he may perhaps to thee
Appear deformed, for he is indeed
Unlike a man: His shape and colours are
Beyond the art of painting; he is like
Nothing that we have seen, yet doth resemble
Apollo, as I oft have fancied him,
When rising from his bed he stirs himself,
And shakes day from his hair?

⁹ *When rising from his bed, &c.*] Similar to this nobly-poetical
passage is the following, in the *Marriage-Night*, by Lord Falkland:

' So breaks the morning forth of a crystal cloud,
' And so the sun ascends his glittering chair,
' And from his burnish'd locks shakes day about.'

R.

Cleo.

Cleo. He resembles Apollo's recorder.

Hid. Cleophila, go send a page for him,
And thou shalt see thy error, and repent. [*Exit Cleo.*
Alas, what do I feel? My blood rebels,
And I am one of those I us'd to scorn:
My maiden-thoughts are fled¹⁰; against myself
I harbour traitors; my virginity,
That from my childhood kept me company,
Is heavier than I can endure to bear.
Forgive me, Cupid! for thou art a god,
And I a wretched creature: I have sinn'd;
But be thou merciful, and grant that yet
I may enjoy what thou wilt have me love¹¹!

Enter Cleophila and Zoilus.

Cleo. Zoilus is here, madam.

Hid. He's there indeed.

Now be thine own judge! see, thou worse than mad,
Is he deformed? Look upon those eyes,
That let all pleasure out into the world,
Unhappy that they cannot see themselves!
Look on his hair, that like so many beams,
Streaking the East, shoot light o'er half the world!
Look on him altogether, who is made
As if two natures had contention
About their skill, and one had brought forth him!

Zoilus. Ha, ha, ha!

Madam, tho' Nature hath not given me
So much as others in my outward show,
I bear a heart as loyal unto you
In this unfightly body (which you please
To make your mirth) as many others do
That are far more befriended in their births.

¹⁰ *My maiden-thoughts are fled against myself;
I harbour traitors in my virginity.*] Corrected by Seward.

¹¹ *I may enjoy what thou wilt have me, Love.*] As the address is to *Love*, a comma and a great letter was a material corruption here: To ask Cupid to let her enjoy what he would have her enjoy was a ridiculous request, but to let her enjoy what he would have her love is the common prayer of all worshippers of Cupid. Seward.

Yet I could wish myself much more deform'd
Than yet I am, so I might make your Grace
More merry than you are.—Ha, ha, ha!

Hid. Beshrew me then

If I be merry! but I am content
Whilst thou art with me; thou that art my faint;
By hope of whose mild favour I do live
To tell thee so: I pray thee, scorn me not!
Alas, what can it add unto thy worth
To triumph over me, that am a maid
Without deceit? whose heart doth guide her tongue?
Drown'd in my passions? Yet I will take leave
To call it reason, that I dote on thee.

Cleo. The princess is beside her Grace, I think,
To talk thus with a fellow that will hardly
Serve i'th' dark when one is drunk.

Hid. What answer wilt thou give me?

Zoilus. If it please your Grace to jest on, I can
abide it.

Hid. If it be jest¹², not to esteem my life
Compar'd with thee; if it be jest in me,
To hang a thousand kisses in an hour
Upon those lips, and take 'em off again;
If it be jest for me to marry thee,
And take obedience on me whilst I live;
Then all I say is jest:
For every part of this, I swear by those
That see my thoughts, I am resolv'd to do!
And I beseech thee, by thine own white hand,
(Which, pardon me that I am bold to kiss
With so unworthy lips) that thou wilt swear
To marry me, as I do here to thee,
Before the face of Heaven!

Zoilus. Marry you? Ha, ha, ha!

Hid. Kill me, or grant! Wilt thou not speak at all?

Zoilus. Why, I will do your will for ever.

Hid. I ask no more: But let me kiss that mouth

¹² If it be *jest*, &c.] This is very like the turn of a speech in
Philaster, *If it be love*, &c.

That is so merciful! that is my will:
Next, go with me before the king in haste,
That is my will; where I will make our peers
Know, that thou art their better.

Zoilus. Ha, ha, ha!

That is fine! ha, ha, ha!

Cleo. Madam, what means your Grace?
Consider, for the love of Heaven, to what
You run madly! will you take this viper
Into your bed?

Hid. Away! hold off thy hands!
Strike her, sweet *Zoilus*; for it is my will,
Which thou hast sworn to do.

Zoilus. Away, for shame!
Know you no manners?—Ha, ha, ha! [*Ex. with Hid.*]

Cleo. Thou know'st none, I fear.
This is just Cupid's anger: *Venus*, look
Down mildly on us! and command thy son
To spare this lady once, and let me be
In love with all; and none in love with me!¹³ [*Exit.*]

Enter Ismenus and Timantus.

Tim. Is your lordship for the wars this summer?

Ism. Timantus,
Wilt thou go with me?

Tim. If I had a company,
My lord.

Ism. Of fidlers? Thou a company?
No, no; keep thy company at home, and cause cuckolds;
The wars will hurt thy face: There are no semsters,
Shoemakers, nor taylor's, nor almond-milk i'th' morning,
Nor poach'd eggs to keep your worship soluble;

¹³ *And let me be in love with all; and none in love with me.*
The measure in this, as in all other plays, has been greatly neglected:
It is generally restor'd here as well as in the rest; and the reader will
find even rhyme as well as measure had been overlook'd in this passage.

Seward.

The sense is surely corrupt; the conclusion of this prayer is very
strange; it is rhyme without reason.

450 C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

No man to warm your shirt, and blow your roses¹⁴;
Nor none to reverence your round lace breeches.
If thou wilt needs go, and go thus, get a case
For thy captainship ! a shower will spoil thee else.
Thus much for thee.

Tim. Your lordship's wondrous witty ;
Very pleasant, believe't.

Enter Telamon, Dorialus, Agenor, Nisus, and Leontius.

Leon. No news yet of my son ?

Tel. Sir, there be divers out in search ; no doubt,
They'll bring the truth where he is, or the occasion
That led him hence.

Tim. They must have good eyes then.

Leon. The gods go with them !—Who are those
that wait there ?

Tel. The lord Ismenus, your general, for his dispatch.

Leon. Oh, nephew, we've no use to employ your
virtue

In our war ; now the province is well settled.
Hear you aught of the marquis ?

Ism. No, Sir.

Leon. 'Tis strange he should be gone thus ;
These five days he was not seen.

Tim. I'll hold my life,
I could bould him in an hour.

Leon. Where is my daughter ?

Dor. About the purging of the temples, Sir.

Leon. She's chaste and virtuous. Fetch her to me,
And tell her I am pleas'd to grant her now
Her last request, without repenting me, [*Exit Nisus.*
Be it what it will. She's wise, Dorialus,
And will not press me further than a father.

Dor. I pray the best may follow ! yet, if your Grace
Had taken the opinions of your people,
At least of such whose wisdoms ever wake
About your safety, I may say it, Sir,

¹⁴ *Roses.*] *Ribands*, in the form of *roses*, were formerly worn in
the shoes of both gentlemen and ladies.

Under your noble pardon, that this change
Either had been more honour to the gods,
Or I think not at all. Sir, the princess.

Enter Hidaspes, Nisus, and Zoilus.

Leon. Oh, my daughter, my health!
And, did I say my soul, I lied not,
Thou art so near me! Speak, and have whatever
Thy wife will leads thee to! Had I a Heaven,
It were too poor a place for such a goodness!

Dor. What's here?

Age. An ape's skin stuff'd I think,
It is so plump.

Hid. Sir, you have past your word;
Still be a prince, and hold you to it. Wonder
Not I press you; my life lies in your word;
If you break that, you've broke my heart! I must
Ask that's my shame, and your will must not deny me;
Now, for Heaven, be not forsworn!

Leon. By th' gods,
I will not! I cannot, were there no other
Pow'r than my love call'd to a witness of it.

Dor. They have much reason to trust; you have
forsworn
One of 'em out o'th' country already.

Hid. Then this is my request: This gentleman—
Be not asham'd, Sir; you are worth a kingdom.

Leon. In what?

Hid. In the way of marriage.

Leon. How?

Hid. In the way of marriage; it must be so!
Your oath is tied to Heaven, as my love
To him.

Leon. I know thou dost but try my age;
Come, ask again!

Hid. If I should ask all
My life-time, this is all still. Sir, I'm serious; I
Must have this worthy man, without enquiring why;
And suddenly, and freely: Do not look

For reason or obedience in my words ;
 My love admits no wisdom ; only haste
 And hope hangs on my fury. Speak, Sir, speak !
 But not as a father ; I'm deaf and dull to counsel ;
 Inflamed blood hears nothing but my will.
 For God's sake, speak !

Dor. Here's a brave alteration !

Nisus. This comes of chastity.

Hid. Will you not speak, Sir ?

Age. The god begins his vengeance : What a sweet
 Youth he has sent us here, with a pudding in's belly !

Leon. Oh, let me never speak,
 Or with my words let me speak out my life !
 Thou pow'r abus'd, great Love, whose vengeance now
 We feel and fear, have mercy on this land !

Nisus. How does your Grace ?

Leon. Sick ; very sick, I hope.

Dor. Gods comfort you !

Hid. Will not you speak ? is this your royal word ?
 Do not pull perjury upon your soul !
 Sir, you are old, and near your punishment ;
 Remember !

Leon. Away, base woman !

Hid. Then be no more my father, but a plague
 I'm bound to pray against ! be any sin
 May force me to despair, and hang myself !
 Be thy name never more remember'd, king,
 But in example of a broken faith,
 And curs'd ev'n to forgetfulness ! may thy land
 Bring forth such monsters as thy daughter is !—
 I'm weary of my rage. I pray forgive me,
 And let me have him ! will you, noble Sir ?

Leon. Mercy, mercy, Heav'n !
 Thou heir of all dishonour, sham'st thou not
 To draw this little moisture left for life,
 Thus rudely from me ?—Carry that slave to death !

Zoilus. For Heav'n's sake, Sir ! it is no fault of mine
 That she will love me.

Leon. To death with him, I say !

Hid.

Hid. Then make haste, tyrant, or I'll be before him ¹⁵!

This is the way to Hell.

Leon. Hold fast, I charge you!

Away with him!

Hid. Alas, old man, death hath more doors than one,
And I will meet him. [Exit.]

Leon. Dorialus, pray

See her i' her chamber, and lay a guard about her.

The greatest curse the gods lay on our frailties

Is will ¹⁶ and disobedience in our issues,

Which we beget, as well as them, to plague us,

With our fond loves. Beasts, you are only blest

That have that happy dulness to forget

What you have made! your young ones grieve not
you;

They wander where they list, and have their ways

Without dishonour to you; and their ends

Fall on 'em without sorrow of their parents,

Or after ill remembrance ¹⁷. Oh, this woman!

'Would I had made myself a sepulchre,

When I made her!—Nephew, where is the prince?

Pray God he have not more part of her baseness

Than of her blood about him! Gentlemen,

Where is he?

Ism. I know not, Sir. H' has his ways by himself,
'Is too wise for my company.

Leon. I don't like

This hiding of himself, from such society

¹⁵ *Or He be for him.*] The princess here attempts to kill herself, and the natural reading is equally necessary to the measure. Mr. Theobald concurs with me in this correction, as does Mr. Symphon too. *Seward.*

We have adopted the alteration, though perhaps the original ran (which seems more in our Authors' stile),

——— or I will BEFORE him!

¹⁶ *Will.*] i. e. *Willfulness, perverseness.*

¹⁷ *Or after ill remembrance.*] Seward reads, *after-ill*; but the hyphen makes it very very hard, and the pass ge is clear enough without it.

454 CUPID'S REVENGE.

As fits his person ¹⁸; some of you needs must know.

Ism. I'm sure not I, nor have known twice these ten days;

Which, if I were as proud as some of 'em,
I should take scurvily: But he's a young man,
Let him have his swinge! 'twill make him——

[*Timantus whispers to the duke.*

There's some good matter now in hand:
How the slave jeers and grins! the duke is pleas'd;
There's a new pair of scarlet hose now, and as much
Money to spare, as will fetch the old from pawn,
A hat and a cloak to go out tomorrow!
Garters and stockings come by nature,

Leon. Be sure of this!

Tim. I durst not speak else, Sir, [Exeunt,

A C T II.

Cornets. Cupid descends.

Cupid. **L** EUCIPPUS, thou art shot thro' with a shaft

That will not rankle long, yet sharp enough
To sow a world of helpless misery
In this unhappy kingdom: Dost thou think,
Because thou art a prince, to make a part ¹⁹
Against my power? But it is all the fault
Of thy old father, who believes his age
Is cold enough to quench my burning darts;
But he shall know ere long, that my dart loose

¹⁸ *From such society as his person,
Some of it ye needs must know.*] Former editions. The changes
now introduced render both the sense and measure tolerably easy. I
find Mr. Theobald's conjecture on the passage so near mine, that it
is of no consequence which is inserted: He reads,

—— as fits his person..

Seward.

¹⁹ *To make a part.*] Sympfon reads *party*; but the old reading is
much more in our Poets' stile.

Can thaw ice, and inflame the wither'd heart
Of Nestor: Thou thyself art lightly struck;
But his mad love shall publish, that the rage
Of Cupid has the power to conquer age. [*Ascends.*]

Enter Leucippus and Bacha.

Leuc. Why, what's the matter?

Bacha. Have you got the spoil
You thirsted for? Oh, tyranny of men!

Leuc. I pray thee leave!

Bacha. Your envy is, Heav'n knows,
Beyond the reach of all our feeble sex:
What pain, alas, could it have been to you,
If I had kept mine honour? You might still
Have been a prince, and still this country's heir.
That innocent guard which I till now had kept,
For my defence, my virtue, did it seem
So dangerous in a state, that you yourself
Came to suppress it?

Leuc. Dry thine eyes again;
I'll kiss thy tears away: This is but folly;
'Tis past all help.

Bacha. Now you have won the treasure,
'Tis my request that you would leave me thus,
And never see these empty walls again:
I know you will do so; and well you may,
For there is nothing in 'em that is worth
A glance: I loath myself, and am become
Another woman! one, methinks, with whom
I want acquaintance.

Leuc. If I do offend thee,
I can be gone: And tho' I love thy sight,
So highly do I prize thine own content,
That I will leave thee.

Bacha. Nay, you may stay now;
You should have gone before: I know not now
Why I should fear you: All I should have kept
Is stol'n; nor is it in the power of man
To rob me further. If you can invent,

456 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Spare not! No naked man fears robbing less
Than I do; now you may for ever stay.

Leuc. Why, I could do thee further wrong.

Bacha. You have
A deeper reach in evil than I; 'tis past
My thoughts.

Leuc. And past my will to act;
But trust me I could do it.

Bacha. Good Sir, do;
That I may know there is a wrong beyond
What you have done me.

Leuc. I could tell all the world
What thou hast done.

Bacha. Yes, you may tell the world;
And do you think I am so vain to hope
You will not? You can tell the world but this,
That I'm a widow, full of tears in show,
(My husband dead, and one that lov'd me so,
Hardly a week) forgot my modesty,
And, caught with youth and greatness, gave myself
To live in sin with you: This you may tell;
And this I do deserve!

Leuc. Why, dost thou think me
So base to tell? These limbs of mine shall part
From one another on a rack,
Ere I disclose. But thou dost utter words
That much afflict me; you did seem as ready,
Sweet *Bacha*, as myself.

Bacha. You are right a man;
When they have 'witch'd us into misery,
Poor innocent souls, they lay the fault on us.
But, be it so! for prince *Leucippus'* sake,
I will bear any thing.

Leuc. Come, weep no more!
I wrought thee to it; it was my fault.
Nay, see if thou wilt leave! Here, take this pearl!
Kiss me, sweet *Bacha*, and receive this purse.

Bacha. What should I do with these? they will
not deck

My

My mind.

Leuc. Why, keep 'em to remember me.
I must be gone; I have been absent long:
I know the duke my father is in rage,
But I will see thee suddenly again.
Farewell, my Bacha!

Bacha. Gods keep you!—Do you hear, Sir?
Pray give me a point to wear.

Leuc. Alas, good Bacha,
Take one, I pray thee, where thou wilt.

Bacha. Coming
From you, this point is of as high esteem
With me, as all pearl and gold. Nothing but good
Be ever with or near you!

Leuc. Fare thee well,
Mine own good Bacha! I will make all haste. [*Exit.*]

Bacha. Just as you are a dozen I esteem you;
No more: Does he think I would prostitute
Myself for love? It was the love of these pearls
And gold that won me. I confess I lust
More after him than any other,
And would at any rate, if I had store,
Purchase his fellowship; but being poor,
I'll both enjoy his body and his purse,
And, he a prince, ne'er think myself the worse.

Enter Leontius, Leucippus, Ismenus, and Timantus.

Leon. Nay, you must back and shew us what it is
That 'witches you out of your honour thus.

Bacha. Who's that?

Tim. Look there, Sir!

Leon. Lady, never fly;
You are betray'd.

Bacha. Leave me, my tears, a while,
And to my just rage give a little place!—
What saucy man are you, that without leave
Enter upon a widow's mournful house?
You hinder a dead man from many tears,
Who did deserve more than the world can shed,

Tho'

Tho' they should weep themselves to images.
 If not for love of me, yet of yourself,
 Away, for you can bring no comfort to me!
 But you may carry hence, you know not what:
 Nay, sorrow is infectious.

Leon. Thou thyself
 Art grown infectious! Wouldst thou know my name?
 I am the duke, father to this young man
 Whom thou corrupt'st.

Bacha [*aside*]. Has he then told him all?

Leuc. You do her wrong, Sir!

Bacha. Oh, he has not told.—

Sir, I beseech you pardon my wild tongue,
 Directed by a weak distemper'd head,
 Maddened with grief! Alas, I did not know
 You were my sovereign; but now you may
 Command my poor unworthy life, which will
 Be none, I hope, ere long.

Leon. All thy dissembling
 Will never hide thy shame: And wer't not more
 Respecting woman-hood in general,
 Than any thing in thee, thou shouldst be made
 Such an example, that posterity,
 When they would speak most bitterly, should say,
 'Thou art as impudent as *Bacha* was.'

Bacha. Sir, tho' you be my king, whom I will serve
 In all just causes, yet when wrongfully
 You seek to take my honour, I will rise
 Thus, and defy you; for it is a jewel
 Dearer than you can give, which whilst I keep,
 (Tho' in this lowly house) I shall esteem
 Myself above the princes of the earth
 That are without it. If the prince your son,
 Whom you accuse me with, know how to speak
 Dishonour of me, if he do not do it,
 The plagues of Hell light on him, may he never
 Govern this kingdom! Here I challenge him,
 Before the face of Heav'n, my liege, and these,
 To speak the worst he can! If he will lie,

To

To lose a woman's fame, I'll say he is
 Like you (I think I cannot call him worse).
 He's dead, that with his life would have defended
 My reputation, and I forc'd to play
 (That which I am) the foolish woman, and use
 My liberal tongue.

Leuc. Is't possible?

We men are children in our carriages,
 Compar'd with women. Wake thyself, for shame,
 And leave not her whose honour thou shouldst keep
 Safe as thine own, alone to free herself!
 But I am press'd, I know not how, with guilt,
 And feel my conscience (never us'd to lie)
 Loath to allow my tongue to add a lie
 To that too much I did: But it is lawful
 To defend her, that only for my love
 Lov'd evil.

Leon. Tell me, why did you, Leucippus,
 Stay here so long?

Leuc. If I can urge aught from me
 But a truth, Hell take me!

Leon. What's the matter?

Why speak you not?

Tim. Alas, good Sir, forbear
 To urge the prince; you see his shamefacedness.

Bacha. What does he say, Sir? If thou be a prince,
 Shew it, and tell the truth!

Ism. If you've lain with her,
 Tell your father; no doubt but he has done as ill
 Before now: The gentlewoman will be proud on't.

Bacha. For God's sake, speak!

Leuc. Have you done prating yet?

Ism. Who prates?

Leuc. Thou know'st I do not speak
 To thee, Ismenus: But what said you,
 Timantus, concerning my shamefacedness?

Tim. Nothing, I hope, that might displease your
 highness.

Leuc. If any of thy great-great-grandmothers,
 This thousand years, had been as chaste as she,

It would have made thee honefter : I stay'd
 To hear what you would say. She is, by Heav'n,
 Of the most strict and blameless chastity
 That ever woman was:—Good gods, forgive me!—
 Had Tarquin met with her, she had been kill'd
 With a slave by her, ere she had agreed.
 I lie with her? 'would I might perish then!
 Our mothers, whom we all must reverence,
 Could ne'er exceed her for her chastity,
 Upon my soul! for, by this light, she is
 A most obstinate modest creature!

Leon. What did you with her then so long, Leucippus?

Leuc. I'll tell you, Sir: You see she's beautiful.

Leon. I see it well.

Leuc. Mov'd by her face, I came
 With lustful thoughts (which was a fault in me;
 But, telling truth, something more pardonable,
 And for the world I will not lie to you):
 Proud of myself, I thought a prince's name
 Had power to blow 'em down flat o' their backs;
 But here I found a rock not to be shook:
 For, as I hope for good, Sir, all the battery
 That I could lay to her, or of my person,
 My greatness, or gold, could nothing move her.

Leon. 'Tis very strange, being so young and fair.

Leuc. She's almost thirty, Sir.

Leon. How do you know
 Her age so just?

Leuc. She told it me herself
 Once when she went about to shew by reason
 I should leave wooing her.

Leon. She stains the ripest virgins of her age.

Leuc. If I had sin'd with her, I would be loath
 To publish her disgrace; but, by my life,
 I would have told it you, because I think
 You would have pardon'd me the rather.
 And I will tell you, father²⁰: By this light, Sir,

²⁰ And I will tell you father.] Edition 1750, —will tell you
 FARTHER.

(But that I never will bestow myself
But to your liking) if she now would have me,
I now would marry her.

Leon. How's that, Leucippus?

Leuc. Sir, will you pardon me one fault, which yet
I have not done, but had a will to do,
And I will tell it?

Leon. Be it what it will,
I pardon thee.

Leuc. I offer'd marriage to her.

Leon. Did she refuse it?

Leuc. With that earnestness,
And almost scorn to think of any other
After her lost mate, that she made me think
Myself unworthy of her.

Leon. You have stay'd
Too long, Leucippus.

Leuc. Yes, Sir.—Forgive me, Heav'n,
What multitude of oaths have I bestow'd
On lies! and yet they were officious lies,
There was no malice in 'em.

Leon. She's the fairest
Creature that ever I beheld; and then
So chaste, 'tis wonderful: The more I look
On her the more I am amaz'd. I've long
Thought of a wife, and one I would have had,
But that I was afraid to meet a woman
That might abuse my age; but here she is
Whom I may trust to: Of a chastity
Impregnable, and approv'd so by my son;
The meanness of her birth will still preserve her
In due obedience; and her beauty is
Of force enough to pull me back to youth.
My son once sent away, whose rivalry
I have just cause to fear, if power, or gold,
Or wit, can win her to me, she is mine.—
Nephew Ismenus, I have new intelligence
Your province is unquiet still.

Ism. I'm glad on't.

Leon.

Leon. And
So dangerously, that I must send the prince
In person with you.

Ism. I'm glad of that too, Sir :
Will you dispatch us ? we shall wither here
For ever.

Leon. You shall be dispatch'd within
This hour : Leucippus, never wonder, nor ask ;
It must be thus.—Lady, I ask your pardon,
Whose virtue I have slubber'd with my tongue ;
And you shall ever be
Chaste in my memory hereafter ; but
We old men often dote. To make amends
For my great fault, receive that ring ! I'm sorry for
Your grief ; may it soon leave you !—Come, my lords ;
Let us be gone. [Exeunt.]

Bacha. Heaven bless your Grace !
One that had but so much modesty left as to blush,
Or shrink a little at his first encounter,
Had been undone ; where I come off with honour,
And gain too : They that never would be track'd
In any course, by the most subtle sense,
Must bear it thro' with frontless impudence. [Exit.]

Enter Dorialus, Agenor, and Nisus.

Dor. Gentlemen, this is a strange piece of justice,
To put the wretched dwarf to death because
She doted on him : Is she not a woman,
And subject to those mad figaries her whole
Sex is infected with ? Had she lov'd you, or you,
Or I, or all on's, (as indeed the more
The merrier still with them) must we therefore
Have our heads par'd with a hatchet ? So she may love
All the nobility out o'th' dukedom in
A month, and let the rascals in.

Nisus. You will not, or you do not, see the need
That makes this just to the world ?

Dor. I cannot tell ; I would be loth to feel it ;
But, the best is, she loves not proper men ;

We three were in wise cases else. But make me know
This need.

Nisus. Why, yes: He being taken away,
This base incontinence dies presently,
And she must see her shame and sorrow for it.

Dor. Pray God she do! But was the sprat beheaded?
Or did they swing him about like a chicken, and
So break his neck?

Agén. Yes, he was beheaded,
And a solemn justice made of it.

Dor. That might
Have been deducted.

Agé. Why, how would you have had him die?

Dor. Faith, I would have had him roasted like a
warden²¹,

In a brown paper, and no more talk on't; or
A feather stuck in's head like a quail; or hang'd him
In a dog-collar: What, should he be beheaded?
We shall ha' it grow so base shortly, gentlemen
Will be out of love with it.

Nisus. I wonder
From whence this love of the dwarf first sprung?

Dor. From an old lecherous pair of breeches, that
Lay upon a wench to keep her warm; for certainly
They are no man's work; and I'm sure a monkey
Would get one of the guard to this fellow!
He was no bigger than a small portmanteau,
And much about that making, if't had legs.

Agé. But, gentlemen, what say you to the prince?

Nisus. Ay, concerning his being sent I know not
whither.

Dor. Why then, he will come home I know not when.
You shall pardon me; I will talk no more
Of this subject, but say, Gods be with him,
Where-e'er he is, and send him well home again!
For why he is gone, or when he will return,
Let them know that directed him! Only this,

²¹ *Like a warden.*] A warden is a pear, which is frequently mentioned by contemporary writers.

There's mad moriscoes in the state;
 But what they are, I'll tell you when I know.
 Come, let's go, hear all, and say nothing!

Age. Content.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Timantus and Telamon.

Tel. Timantus, is the duke ready yet?

Tim. Almost.

Tel. What ails him?

Tim. Faith, I know not; I think he has dream'd
 He's but eighteen; has been worse since he sent you
 Forth for the frizzling-iron.

Tel. That can't be;

He lay in gloves all night, and this morning I
 Brought him a new perriwig, with a lock at it²², and
 Knock'd up a swing in's chamber.

Tim. Oh, but since,

His taylor came, and they have fallen out
 About the fashion of his cloaths; and yonder's
 A fellow come, has bor'd a hole in's ear²³;
 And h' has bespake a vaulting-horse. You shall see him
 Come forth presently: He looks like Winter,
 Stuck here and there with fresh flowers.

Tel. Will he not

Tilt, think you?

Tim. I think he will.

Tel. What does he mean to do?

Tim. I know not;

But, by this light, I think he is in love!
 He would ha' been shaved but for me.

Tel. In love?

With whom?

²² *With a lock at it;*] i. e. A *love-lock*. The allusion is (as Dr. Warburton observes in a note on *Much Ado About Nothing*) to the fantastical custom in our Poets' days, of men wearing 'a favourite' lock of hair, which was brought before, tied with ribands, and 'called a *love-lock*. Against this fashion, Prynne wrote his treatise, 'called the *Unloveliness of Love-Locks*.'

²³ *A hole in's ear;*] i. e. For an *ear-ring*, by means of which the *love-lock* was brought before.

Tim.

Tim. I could guess, but you shall pardon me;
He will take me along with him some whither.

Tel. I over-heard him ask your opinion of
Somebody's beauty.

Tim. Yes; there it goes, that makes him
So youthful. And he has laid by his crutch,
And halts now with a leading staff.

Enter Leontius, with a staff and a looking-glass.

Leon. Timantus!

Tim. Sir.

Leon. This feather is not large enough.

Tim. Yes, faith,

'Tis such an one as the rest of the young gallants wear.

Leon. Telamon, does it do well?

Tel. Sir, it becomes you,
Or you become it, the rareliest—

Leon. Away! dost think so?

Tel. Think, Sir? I know it.—

Sir, the princess is past all hope of life
Since the dwarf was put to death.

Leon. Let her be so;

I have other matters in hand. But this same tailor
Angers me; he has made my doublet so wide!
And see, the knave has put no points at my arm!

Tim. Those will be put-to quickly, Sir,

Upon any occasion.

Leon. Telamon,

Have you bid this dancer come a-mornings?

Tel. Yes, Sir.

Leon. Timantus, let me see the glass again;
Look you how careless you are grown! is this tooth
Well put in?

Tim. Which, Sir?

Leon. This, Sir.

Tim. It shall be.

Tel. Methinks that tooth should put him
In mind on's years! and Timantus stands, as if
(Seeing the duke in such a youthful habit)
He were looking in his mouth how old he were.

Leon. So, so!

Tel. Will you have your gown, Sir?

Leon. My gown?

Why, am I sick? Bring me my sword! let a couple
Of the great horses he brought out for us. [*Exit Tel.*

Tim. He'll kill himself.—Why, will you ride, Sir?

Leon. Ride?

Dost thou think I cannot ride?

Tim. Oh, yes, Sir,

I know it: But, as I conceive your journey,
You'd have it private; and then you were better take
A coach.

Leon. These coaches make me sick: Yet, 'tis
No matter; let it be so.

Enter Telamon with a sword.

Tel. Sir, here's your sword.

Leon. Oh, well said; let me see it! I could,
methinks—

Why, Telamon, bring me another! what, think'st thou
I'll wear a sword in vain?

Tel. He has not strength
Enough to draw it:

A yoke of fleas tied to a hair would have drawn it.
'Tis out, Sir, now; the scabbard is broke.

Leon. Oh, put it up again, and on with it!
Methinks, I'm not dress'd 'till I feel my sword on.
Telamon, if any of my council ask for me,
Say I am gone to take the air.

Tim. He has not
Been dress'd this twenty years thus²³. If this vein
Hold but a week, he'll learn to play o'th' base-viol,
And sing to't: He's poetical already;
For I have spied a sonnet of his making
Lie by his bed's side: I'll be so unmannerly
To read it. [*Exeunt.*

Cleophila, Hero, and Hidaspes in a bed, discovered.

Hid. He's dead, he's dead, and I am following!

²³ This twenty years then] Former editions.

Seward.

Cleo.

Cleo. Ask Cupid mercy, madam!

Hid. Oh, my heart!

Cleo. Help!

Hero. Stir her!

Hid. Oh, oh!

Cleo. She's going; wretched women that we are!
Look to her, and I'll pray the while. [*She kneels.*]

Hero. Why, madam——

Cleo. Cupid, pardon what is past,
And forgive our sins at last;
Then we will be coy no more,
But thy deity adore:
Troths at fifteen we will plight,
And will tread a dance at night,
In the fields, or by the fire,
With the youths that have desire——

How does she yet?

Hero. Oh, ill!

Cleo. Given ear-rings we will wear,
Bracelets of our lovers' hair,
Which they on our arms shall twist,
With their names carv'd, on our wrist;
All the money that we owe
We in tokens will bestow;
And learn to write, that, when 'tis sent,
Only our loves know what is meant.
Oh, then pardon what is past,
And forgive our sins at last!

What, mends she?

Hero. Nothing; you do it not wantonly; you
should sing.

Cleo. Why——

Hero. Leave, leave! 'tis now too late: She's dead,
Her last is breath'd.

Cleo. What shall we do?

Hero. Go run, [*Exit Cleo.*]

And tell the duke; and, whilst, I'll close her eyes.

Thus I shut thy faded light,
And put it in eternal night.

Where is she can boldly say,
 Tho' she be as fresh as May,
 She shall not by this corpse be laid,
 Ere tomorrow's light do fade?
 Let us all now living be
 Warn'd by thy strict chastity,
 And marry all fast as we can!
 'Till then we keep a piece of man
 Wrongfully from them that owe it:
 Soon may every maid bestow it!

[*Exeunt.*]*Enter Bacha and her Maid.**Bacha.* Who is it?*Maid.* Forsooth, there's a gallant coach at the door,
 And the brave old man in't, that you said was the duke.*Bacha.* Cupid, grant he may be taken!*Maid.* He's coming up, and looks the swaggering'st,
 And has such glorious cloaths!*Bacha.* Let all the house seem sad²⁴, and see all
 handsome!*Enter Leontius and Timantus.**Leon.* Nay, widow, fly not back; we come not now
 To chide; stand up, and bid me welcome.*Bacha.* To a poor widow's house, that knows no end
 Of her ill fortune, your highness is most welcome.*Leon.* Come, kiss me then! this is but manners, widow:
 Ne'er fling your head aside! I have more cause
 Of grief than you; my daughter's dead: But what?
 'Tis nothing.—Is the rough French horse brought to
 th' door?They say he is a high goer; I shall soon try
 His mettle.*Tim.* He will be, Sir, and the grey
 Barbary; they're fiery both.*Leon.* They are the better:

²⁴ *Let all the house see me sad.*] Both the sense and measure confirm a very just emendation of Mr. Theobald's here; *seem for see me.* Mr. Symphon has since sent me the same correction.

Seward.

Before

Before the gods, I'm lightsome, very lightsome !
How dost thou like me, widow ?

Bacha. As a person
In whom all graces are.

Leon. Come, come, you flatter !
I'll clap your cheek for that ; and you shall not
Be angry. Hast no music ? Now could I cut
Three times with ease, and do a cross point, should
Shame all your gallants !

Bacha. I do believe you ;—and yourself too :
Lord, what a fine old zany my love has made him !
He's mine, I'm sure : Heav'n make me thankful for him !

Leon. Tell me how old thou art, my pretty sweet-
heart ?

Tim. Your Grace will not buy her ? she may trip, Sir !

Bacha. My sorrow shews me elder than I am
By many years.

Leon. Thou art so witty I
Must kiss again.

Tim. Indeed her age lies not
In her mouth ; ne'er look it there, Sir : She has
A better register, if it be not burnt.

Leon. I will kiss thee :—I am afire, Timantus !

Tim. Can you chuse, Sir, having such heav'nly fire
Before you ?

Leon. Widow, guess why I come ; I prithee do.

Bacha. I cannot, Sir, unless you be pleas'd to make
A mirth out of my rudeness ; and that I hope
Your pity will not let you, the subject is
So barren.—Bite, king, bite ! I'll let you play a while.

Leon. Now, as I'm an honest man, I'll tell thee truly.
How many foot did I jump yesterday,
Timantus ?

Tim. Fourteen of your own, and some
Three fingers.

Bacha. This fellow lies as lightly,
As if he were in cut taffata :
Alas, good almanack, get thee to bed,
And tell what weather we shall have tomorrow !

470 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Leon. Widow, I'm come, in short, to be a suitor.

Bacha. For whom?

Leon. Why, by my troth, I come to woo thee, wench,
And win thee, for myself: Nay, look upon me!
I have about me that will do it.

Bacha. Now Heaven defend me! Your whore²⁵?
You shall never—I thank the gods, I have
A little left me to keep me warm and honest:
If your Grace take not that, I seek no more.

Leon. I am so far from taking any thing,
I'll add unto thee.

Bacha. Such additions may
Be for your ease, Sir, not my honesty;
I'm well in being single; good Sir, seek another;
I am no meat for money.

Leon. Shall I fight for thee?
This sword shall cut his throat that dares lay claim
But to a finger of thee, but to a look;
I would see such a fellow!

Bacha. It would be
But a cold fight to you! This is the father of
St. George a-footback: Can such dry mummy talk?

Tim. Before the gods, your Grace looks like Æneas.

Bacha. He looks like his old father upon his back,
Crying to get aboard.

Leon. How shall I win thy love? I pray thee tell me,
I'll marry thee, if thou desirest that:

That is an honest course, (I'm in good earnest)
And presently within this hour (I am mad for thee):
Prithee deny me not; for as I live
I'll pine for thee, but I'll have thee!

Bacha. Now he is in the toil, I'll hold him fast.

Tim. You do not know what 'tis to be a queen:

²⁵ *Your whore shall never.*] The sense and measure being both defective, I have put in the natural words that supply both. *Seward.*

Seward reads, *Your whore I shall be never.*—The quarto of 1635 says, *Your whore you shall never*; which words, with the help of a point of interrogation, and marking it as a broken sentence, make much the best reading.

Go to²⁶; you're made! What the old man falls short of,
There's others can eek out, when you please to call on'em.

Bacha. I understand you not.—Love, I adore thee!—
Sir, on my knees I give you hearty thanks,
For so much honouring your humble handmaid
Above her birth, far more her weak deservings.
I dare not trust the envious tongues of all
That must repine at my unworthy rising;
Beside, you've many fair ones in your kingdom,
Born to such worth: Oh, turn yourself about,
And make a noble choice!

Leon. If I do, let me famish! I will have thee,
Or break up house, and board here.

Bacha. Sir, you may
Command an unwilling woman to obey you:
But Heaven knows——

Leon. No more! these half-a-dozen kisses,
And this jewel, and every thing I have,
And away with me, and clap it up; and have
A boy by morning!—Timantus, let one be sent
Post for my son again; and for Ismenus!
They are scarce twenty miles on their way yet:
By that time, we'll be married.

Tim. There shall, Sir. [Exeunt.]

A C T III.

Enter Dorialus, Agenor, and Nisus.

Nisus. **I**S not this a fine marriage?

Age. Yes, yes; let it alone.

Dor. Ay, ay, the king may marry whom he list.

²⁶ *Go too* you mayd, *what, &c.*] The Editors of 1750 read,
Go to, you're mad, *ELSE what, &c.* which Seward believes 'will
' be assented to by every Reader.' As the word *else* is not in the
copy of 1635, we suppose it interpolated; and *mayd* surely is only an
orthographical error. So, in the Winter's Tale,

— You're a *made* old man.

Let's talk of other matters.

Nisus. Is the prince
Coming home certainly?

Dor. Yes, yes; he was
Sent post for yesterday: Let's make haste! we'll see
How his new mother-in-law will entertain him.

Nisus. Why, well, I warrant you: Did you not mark
How humbly she carried herself to us on
Her marriage-day, acknowledging her own
Unworthiness, and that she would be our servant?

Dor. But mark what's done!

Nisus. Regard not show!

Age. Oh, God!

I knew her when I have been offer'd her
To be brought to my bed for five pounds; whether
It could have been perform'd or no, I know not.

Nisus. Her daughter is a pretty lady.

Dor. Yes;
And having had but mean bringing up,
It talks the prettiest and innocentest!
The queen will be so angry to hear her betray
Her breeding by her language! But I'm persuaded
She's well dispos'd.

Age. I think better than her mother.

Nisus. Come, we stay too long.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Leucippus and Ismenus.

Ism. How now, man? struck dead with a tale?

Leuc. No,
But with a truth.

Ism. Stand of yourself: Can you endure blows,
And shrink at words?

Leuc. Thou know'st I've told thee all.

Ism. But that's all nothing to make you thus; your
sister
Is dead.

Leuc. That's much; but not the most.

Ism. Why, for the other,
Let her marry and hang; it is no purpos'd fault.

Of

Of yours! and if your father will needs have
 Your cast whore, you shall shew the duty of
 A child better in being contented, and
 Bidding much good do his good old heart with her,
 Than in repining thus at it: Let her go! what!
 There are more wenches, man; we'll have another.

Leuc. Oh, thou art vain; thou know'st I do not
 love her.

What shall I do? I would my tongue had led me
 To any other thing, but blasphemy,
 So I had mis'd commending of this woman,
 Whom I must reverence, now she is my mother!
 My sin, Ismenus, has wrought all this ill:
 And I beseech thee to be warn'd by me,
 And do not lie! If any man should ask thee
 But *How thou dost*, or *What o'clock 'tis now*,
 Be sure thou do not lie! Make no excuse
 For him that is most near thee! never let
 The most officious falsehood²⁷ scape thy tongue!
 For they above (that are entirely truth)
 Will make that seed which thou hast sown of lies,
 Yield miseries a thousand-fold
 Upon thine head, as they have done on mine.

Enter Timantus.

Tim. Sir, your highness is welcome home! the king
 And queen will presently come forth to you.

Leuc. I'll wait on them.

Tim. Worthy Ismenus, I pray you,
 How have you sped in your wars?

Ism. This rogue mocks me!—
 Well, Timantus. Pray how have you sped here
 At home at shuffleboard?

Tim. Faith, reasonable.
 How many towns have you taken in this summer?

Ism. How many stags have you been at the death
 of this grass?

²⁷ *Officious falsehood.*] *Officious* seems here to relate to *duty, office*.
 It is similarly used by the same speaker in p. 461.

Tim.

474 C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

Tim. A number. Pray how is the province settled?

Ism. Prithee how does the dun nag?

Tim. I think you mock me,

My lord.

Ism. Mock thee? Yes, by my troth do I;

Why, what wouldst thou have me do with thee?

Art good for any thing else?

Enter Leontius, Bacha, Dorialus, Agenor, Nisus, and Telamon.

Leuc. My good Ismenus, hold me by the wrist!
And if thou see'st me fainting, wring me hard,
For I shall swoon again else! *[Kneels.]*

Leon. Welcome, my son! Rise. I did send for thee
Back from the province, by thy mother's counsel,
Thy good mother here, who loves thee well:
She would not let me venture all my joy
Amongst my enemies. I thank thee for her,
And none but thee: I took her on thy word.

Leuc. Pinch harder!

Leon. And she shall bid thee welcome. I have now
Some near affairs, but I will drink a health
To thee anon. Come, Telamon! I'm grown
Lustier, I thank thee for it, since I married;
Why, Telamon, I can stand now alone,
And never stagger. *[Exeunt Leon. and Tel.]*

Bacha. Welcome, most noble Sir, whose fame is come
Hither before you!—Out, alas! you scorn me,
And teach me what to do.

Leuc. No; you are
My mother.

Bacha. Far unworthy of that name,
God knows! But trust me, here before these lords,
I am no more but nurse unto the duke;
Nor will I breed a faction in the state:
It is too much for me that I am rais'd
Unto his bed, and will remain the servant
Of you that did it.

Leuc. Madam, I will serve you

As

As shall become me.—Oh, dissembling woman!
 Whom I must reverence tho'. Take from thy quiver,
 Sure-aim'd Apollo, one of thy swift darts,
 Headed with thy consuming golden beams,
 And let it melt this body into mist,
 That none may find it!

Bacha. Shall I beg, my lords,
 This room in private for the prince and me?

[*Exeunt all but Leuc. and Bacha.*]

Leuc. What will she say now?

Bacha. I must still enjoy him:
 Yet there is still left in me a spark of woman,
 That wishes he would move it; but he stands
 As if he grew there with his eyes on earth.—
 Sir, you and I, when we were last together,
 Kept not this distance, as we were afraid
 Of blasting by ourselves.

Leuc. Madam, 'tis true;
 Heav'n pardon it!

Bacha. Amen! Sir, you may think
 That I have done you wrong in this strange marriage.

Leuc. It is past now.

Bacha. But 'twas no fault of mine:
 The world had call'd me mad, had I refus'd
 The king; nor laid I any train to catch him,
 'Twas your own oaths that did it.

Leuc. 'Tis a truth,
 That takes my sleep away! But 'would to Heav'n,
 If it had so been pleas'd, you had refus'd him,
 Tho' I had gratified that courtesy
 With having you myself! But since 'tis thus,
 I do beseech you that you will be honest
 From henceforth; and not abuse his credulous age,
 Which you may easily do. As for myself,
 What I can say, you know, alas, too well,
 Is tied within me; here it will sit like lead,
 But shall offend no other; it will pluck me
 Back from my entrance into any mirth,
 As if a servant came, and whisper'd with me

476 C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

Of some friend's death : But I will bear myself,
To you, with all the due obedience
A son owes to a mother : More than this
Is not in me, but I must leave the rest
To the just gods, who, in their blessed time,
When they have given me punishment enough
For my rash sin, will mercifully find
As unexpected means to ease my grief,
As they did now to bring it.

Bacha. Grown so godly ?

This must not be. And I will be to you
No other than a natural mother ought ;
And for my honesty, so you will swear
Never to urge me, I shall keep it safe
From any other.

Leuc. Bless me ! I should urge you ?

Bacha. Nay, but swear then that I may be at peace !
For I do feel a weakness in myself,
That can deny you nothing : If you tempt me,
I shall embrace sin as it were a friend,
And run to meet it.

Leuc. If you knew how far
If were from me, you would not urge an oath ;
But for your satisfaction, When I tempt you——

Bacha. Swear not.—I cannot move him.—This
sad talk,

Of things past help, does not become us well :
Shall I send one for my musicians, and we'll dance ?

Leuc. Dance, madam ?

Bacha. Yes, a *laxalta*.

Leuc. I cannot dance, madam.

Bacha. Then let's be merry !

Leuc. I am as my fortunes bid me ;
Do not you see me fowr ?

Bacha. Yes.

And why think you I smile ?

Leuc. I am so far
From any joy myself, I cannot fancy
A cause of mirth.

Bacha.

Bacha. I'll tell you; we're alone.

Leuc. Alone?

Bacha. Yes.

Leuc. 'Tis true; what then?

Bacha. What then? you make my smiling now
Break into laughter! What think you is
To be done then?

Leuc. We should pray to Heaven
For mercy.

Bacha. Pray? that were a way indeed
To pass the time! But I will make you blush,
To see a bashful woman teach a man
What we should do alone; try again
If you can find it out.

Leuc. I dare not think
I understand you!

Bacha. I must teach you then:
Come, kiss me.

Leuc. Kiss you?

Bacha. Yes; be not ashamed!
You did it not yourself; I will forgive you.

Leuc. Keep, you displeased gods, the due respect
I ought to bear unto this wicked woman,
As she is now my mother! haste within me,
Lest I add sins to sins, 'till no repentance
Will cure me.

Bacha. Leave these melancholy moods,
That I may swear thee welcome on thy lips
A thousand times!

Leuc. Pray leave this wicked talk:
You do not know to what my father's wrong
May urge me.

Bacha. I am careless, and do weigh,
The world, my life, and all my after hopes
Nothing without thy love: Mistake me not;
Thy love, as I have had it, free and open
As wedlock is, within itself: What say you?

Leuc. Nothing.

Bacha. Pity me! behold a duchess

Kneels

478 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Kneels for thy mercy ; and I swear to you,
Tho' I should lie with you, it is no lust ;
For it desires no change : I could with you
Content myself. What answer will you give ?

Leuc. They that can answer must be less amaz'd
Than I am now ! You see my tears deliver
My meaning to you.

Bacha. Shall I be condemn'd ?
Thou art a beast, worse than a savage beast,
To let a lady kneel, to beg that thing
Which a right man would offer.

Leuc. 'Tis your will, Heav'n ;
But let me bear me like myself, however
She does !

Bacha. Were you made an eunuch, since you went
hence ?

Yet they have more desire than I can find
In you. How fond was I to beg thy love !
I'll force thee to my will : Dost thou not know
That I can make the king dote at my list ?
Yield quickly, or by Heav'n I'll have thee kept
In prison for my purpose !

Where I will make thee serve my turn, and have thee
Fed with such meats as best shall fit my ends,
And not thy health.—Why dost not speak to me ?—
And when thou dost displease me, and art grown
Less able to perform, then I will have thee
Kill'd and forgotten !—Are you stricken dumb ?

Leuc. All you have nam'd, but making of me sin
With you, you may command, but never that,
Say what you will : I'll hear you as becomes me,
If you speak ; I will not follow your counsel,
Neither will I tell the world to your disgrace,
But give you the just honour that is due
From me to my father's wife.

Bacha. Lord, how full
Of wise formality are you grown of late !—
But you were telling me you could have wish'd
That I had married you : If you will swear so yet,

I'll

I'll make away the king.

Leuc. You are a strumpet——

Bacha. Nay, I care not

For all your railings; they will batter walls
And take in towns, as soon as trouble me:
Tell him! I care not; I shall undo you only,
Which is no matter.

Leuc. I appeal to you
Still, and for ever, that are and cannot
Be other!—Madam, I see 'tis in your power
To work your will on him; and I desire you
To lay what trains you will for my wish'd death,
But suffer him to find his quiet grave
In peace: Alas, he never did you wrong.
And further, I beseech you pardon me
For the ill word I gave you; for however
You may deserve, it became not me
To call you so; but passion urges me
I know not whither. My heart, break now,
And ease me ever!

Bacha. Pray you get you hence
Wi' your goodly humour! I am weary of you
Extremely.

Leuc. Trust me, so am I of myself too:
Madam, I'll take my leave. Gods set all right! [*Exit.*

Bacha. Amen! Sir, get you gone!—
Am I denied? It does not trouble me
That I have mov'd, but that I am refus'd:
I've lost my patience! I will make him know
Lust is not love; for lust will find a mate
While there are men, and so will I, and more

Enter Timantus.

Than one, or twenty!—Yonder is Timantus,
A fellow void of any worth to raise himself,
And therefore like to catch at any evil
That will but pluck him up; him will I make
Mine own.—Timantus!

Tim. Madam?

Bacha.

Bacha. Thou know'st well
Thou wert, by chance, a means of this my raising;
Brought the duke to me; and, tho' 'twere but chance,
I must reward thee.

Tim. I shall bend my service
Unto your highness.

Bacha. But do it then entirely, and in every thing;
And tell me, couldst thou now think that thing
Thou wouldst not do for me?

Tim. No, by my soul, madam.

Bacha. Then thou art right.
Go to my lodging, and I'll follow thee. [*Exit Tim.*
With my instruction, I do see already,
This prince, that did but now condemn me, dead!
Yet will I never speak an evil word
Unto his father of him, 'till I have
Won a belief I love him; but I'll make
His virtues his undoing, and my praises
Shall be so many swords against his breast:
Which once perform'd, I'll make Urania,
My daughter, the king's heir, and plant my issue
In this large throne; nor shall it be withstood:
They that begin in lust, must end in blood! [*Exit.*

Enter Dorialus, Agenor, and Nifus.

Dor. We live to know a fine time, gentlemen.

Nifus. And a fine duke, that thro' his doting age
Suffers himself to be a child again,
Under his wife's tuition.

Age. All the land
Holds in that tenure too, in woman's service:
Sure we shall learn to spin!

Dor. No, that's too honest;
We shall have other liberal sciences
Taught us too soon: Lying and flattering,
Those are the studies now! and murder shortly
I know will be humanity. Gentlemen,
If we live here we must be knaves, believe it.

Nifus. I cannot tell, my lord Dorialus; tho' my

Own nature hate it, if all determine to be knaves,
I'll try what I can do upon myself, that's certain:
I will not have my throat cut for my goodness;
The virtue will not quit the pain.

Age. But pray you tell me,
Why is the prince, now ripe and full experienc'd,
Not made a doer in the state ²⁸?

Nisus. Because he's honest.

Enter Timantus.

Tim. Goodness attend your honours!

Dor. You must not be amongst us then.

Tim. The duchess,
Whose humble servant I am proud to be,
Would speak with you.

Age. Sir, we are pleas'd to wait;
When is it?

Tim. An hour hence, my good lords:
And so I leave my service.

[*Exit.*

Dor. This is one
Of her ferrets that she boults business out withal:
This fellow, if he were well ript, has all
The linings of a knave within him: How sly he looks!

Nisus. Have we nothing about our cloaths that he
May catch at?

Age. O' my conscience, there is
No treason in my doublet! if there be,
My elbows will discover it, they're out.

Dor. Faith,
And all the harm that I can find in mine
Is, that they are not paid for; let him
Make what he can of that, so he discharge it.
Come, let us go. [Exeunt.

Enter Bacha, Leontius, and Telamon.

Bacha. And you shall find, Sir, what
A blessing Heaven gave you in such a son.

²⁸ Not made a doer in the state?] Corrected in 1750.

482 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Leon. Pray gods I may ! Let's walk, and change our subject.

Bacha. Oh, Sir, can any thing come sweeter to you,
Or strike a deeper joy into your heart,
Than your son's virtue ?

Leon. I allow his virtues ;
But 'tis not handsome thus to feed myself
With such immoderate praises of mine own.

Bacha. The subject of our commendations
Is itself grown so infinite in goodness,
That all the glory we can lay upon it,
Tho' we should open volumes of his praises,
Is a mere modesty in his expression,
And shews him lame still, like an ill-wrought piece
Wanting proportion.

Leon. Yet still he's a man, and subject still
To more inordinate vices than our love
Can give him blessings.

Bacha. Else he were a god ;
Yet so near, as he is, he comes to Heav'n,
That we may see, so far as flesh can point us,
Things only worthy of them ; and only these
In all his actions.

Leon. This is too much, my queen !

Bacha. Had the gods lov'd me, that my unworthy
womb
Had bred this brave man——

Leon. Still you run wrong !

Bacha. I would have liv'd upon the comfort of him,
Fed on his growing hopes !

Leon. This touches me !

Bacha. I know no friends, nor being, but his virtues.

Leon. You've laid out words enough upon a subject.

Bacha. But words cannot express him, Sir. Why,
what a shape

Heav'n has conceiv'd him in ! oh, Nature made
him up——

Leon. I wonder, duchess——

Bacha. So you must ; for less

Than

Than admiration loses this godlike man.

Leon. Have you done with him?

Bacha. Done with him? Oh, good gods,
What qualities thus pass by us without reverence²⁹!

Leon. I see no such perfection.

Bacha. Oh, dear Sir, you're a father, and those joys
To you, speak in your heart, not in your tongue.

Leon. This leaves a taste behind it worse than physic.

Bacha. Then for his wisdom, valour, and good
fortune,

And all those friends of honour³⁰, they're in him
As free and natural, as passions in
A woman.

Leon. You make me blush, for all these years,
To see how blindly you have flung your praises
Upon a boy, a very child; and worthless,
Whilst I live, of these honours.

Bacha. I would not have my love, Sir, make my
tongue

Shew me so much a woman, as to praise
Or dispraise, where my will is, without reason,
Or general allowance of the people.

Leon. Allowance of the people? what allow they?

Bacha. All I have said for truth; and they must do it,
And dote upon him, love him, and admire him.

Leon. How's that?

Bacha. For in his youth³¹ and noble forwardness
All things are bound together that are kingly;
A fitness to bear rule——

Leon. No more!

²⁹ *What frailties thus pass by us without reverence?*] *Frailties*, Seward justly observes, is 'the very reverse of the idea required by the context:' He substitutes *virtues* for that word, but we have adopted Symphon's reading, *qualities*, which is much the best.

³⁰ *Bacha.* Then for all his wisdom, valour,

Good fortune, and all those friends of honour,

They are in him as free and natural, as passions

In a woman.] The measure here was quite lost, and the sense hurt, by inserting the *all* from the second line into the first. *Seward.*

³¹ *For in this youth.*] Varied by Seward.

Bacha. And sovereignty,
Not made to know command.

Leon. I've said, no more!

Bacha. I've done, Sir, tho' unwilling; and pardon
me!

Leon. I do; not a word more!

Bacha. I've giv'n thee poison
Of more infection than the dragon's tooth,
Or the gross air o'er-heated.

Enter Timantus.

Leon. Timantus, when
Saw you the prince?

Tim. I left him now, Sir.

Leon. Tell me truly,
Out of your free opinion, without courting,
How you like him.

Tim. How I like him?

Leon. Yes;
For you in conversation may see more
Than a father.

Bacha. It works.

Tim. Your Grace has chosen out an ill observer.

Leon. Yes, I mean of his ill; you talk rightly.

Tim. But you take me wrong! All I know by him
I dare deliver boldly: He is the storehouse
And head of virtue, your great self excepted,
That feeds the kingdom.

Leon. These are flatteries!
Speak me his vices; there you do a service
Worthy a father's thanks.

Tim. Sir, I cannot.
If there be any, sure they are the times',
Which I could wish less dangerous. But pardon me,
I am too bold.

Leon. You are not; forward,
And open what these dangers are!

Tim. Nay, good Sir!

Leon. Nay, fall not off again; I will have all!

Tim.

Tim. Alas, Sir, what am I, you should believe
My eyes or ears so subtle to observe
Faults in a state? all my main business
Is service to your Grace, and necessities
For my poor life.

Leon. Do not displease me, sirrah!
But that you know tell me, and presently.

Tim. Since your Grace will have it,
I'll speak it freely; always my obedience
And love preserv'd unto the prince.

Leon. Prithee to the matter!

Tim. For, Sir, if you consider
How like a sun in all his great employments,
How full of heat——

Leon. Make me understand what I desire!

Tim. And then at his return——

Leon. Do not anger me!

Tim. Then thus, Sir: All dislike you,
As they would do the gods, if they did dwell with 'em.

Leon. What?

Tim. Talk and prate, as their ignorant rages
Lead 'em, without allegiance or religion.
For Heav'n's sake, have a care of your own person!
I cannot tell; their wickedness may lead
Further than I dare think yet.

Leon. Oh, base people!

Tim. Yet the prince, for whom this is pretended, may
Persuade 'em, and no doubt will: Virtue's ever
watchful;

But be you still secur'd and comforted!

Leon. Heav'n! how have I offended, that this rod,
So heavy and unnatural, should fall upon me
When I am old and helpless?

Tim. Brave gentleman ³²!
That such a madding love should follow thee,
To rob thee of a father! All the court
Is full of dangerous whispers.

Leon. I perceive it;

³² Brave gentleman!] Seward reads, POOR brave gentleman!

486 CUPID'S REVENGE,

And, 'spite of all their strengths, will make my safety!
I'll cut him shorter—I'll cut him shorter first,
Then let him rule.

Bacha. What a foul age is this,
When virtue's made a sword to smite the virtuous?
Alas, alas!

Leon. I'll teach him to fly lower.

Tim. By no means, Sir; rather make more your love,
And hold your favour to him: For 'tis now
Impossible to yoke him, if his thoughts
(As I must ne'er believe) run with their rages
(He ever was so innocent³³). But what reason
His Grace has to withdraw his love from me,
And other good men that are near your person,
I cannot yet find out; I know my duty
Has ever been attending.

Leon. 'Tis too plain
He means to play the villain; I'll prevent him.
Not a word more of this; be private! [*Exit,*

Tim. Madam, 'tis done.

Bacha. He can't escape me. Have you spoken with
the noblemen?

Tim. Yes, madam; they are here. I wait a further
service.

Bacha. 'Till you see the prince³⁴, you need no
more instructions.

Tim. No; I have it! [*Exit.*

Enter Dorialus, Nisus, and Agenor.

Bacha. That fool that willingly provokes a woman
Has made himself another evil angel,
And a new hell, to which all other torments

³³ *He ne'er was so innocent.*] Corrected by Seward.

³⁴ *'Till yet be the prince.*] For want of consulting the quarto of 1635 (which exhibits the lection in our text) Seward and Sympfon were much puzzled about this passage: The former prints, *STILL RESET the prince*; and the latter proposes, *STILL LET IT BE the prince*.—Through inattention to that copy (which is infinitely the best, and which it is certain they were possessed of) they have made many unnecessary variations, which we forbear to particularise.

Are but mere pastime.—Now, my noble lords,
You must excuse me, that unmannerly
We've broke your private business.

Age. Your good Grace
May command us, and that——

Bacha. Faith, my lord Agenor,
It is so good a cause, I'm confident
You cannot lose by it.

Dor. Which way does she fish now?
The devil's but a fool to a right woman.

Nisus. Madam, we must needs win in doing service
To such a gracious lady.

Bacha. I thank you, and will let you know the business,
So I may have your helps: Never be doubtful,
For 'tis so just a cause, and will to you
Upon the knowledge seem so honourable,
That I assure myself your willing hearts
Will straight be for me in it.

Age. If she should prove good now, what were it like?

Dor. Thunder in January, or a good woman;
That's stranger than all the monsters in Africk.

Bacha. It shall not need your wonder; this it is:
The duke you know is old, and rather subject
To ease and prayers now, than all those troubles,
Cares, and continual watchings, that attend
A kingdom's safety: Therefore to prevent
The fall of such a flourishing estate
As this has been, and to put off
The murmur of the people, that encrease
Against my government, which the gods know
I only feel the trouble of, I present
The prince unto your loves, a gentleman
In whom all excellencies are knit together,
All pieces of a true man: Let your prayers
Win from the duke half his vexation,
That he may undertake it, whose discretion
I must confess, tho' it be from a father,
Yet now is stronger, and more apt to govern!
'Tis not my own desire, but all the land's;

488 CUPID'S REVENGE.

I know the weakness of it.

Nisus. Madam, this noble care and love has won us
For ever to your loves: We'll to the king;
And since your Grace has put it in our mouths,
We'll win him with the cunning'st words we can.

Dor. I was never cozen'd in a woman before,
For commonly they are like apples:
If once they bruise, they will grow rotten thro',
And serve for nothing but to assuage swellings.

Bacha. Good lords,
Delay no time, since it is your good pleasures
To think my counsel good! and by no means
Let the prince know it, whose affections
Will stir mainly against it; besides, his father
May hold him dangerous, if it be not carried
So that his forward will appear not in it.
Go, and be happy!

Dor. Well, I'd not be chronicled
As thou'lt be for a good woman, for all the world.

Nisus. Madam, we kiss your hand; and so inspir'd,
Nothing but happiness can crown our prayers³⁵. [*Exe.*

A C T IV.

Enter Leucippus and Ismenus.

Leuc. **T**HUS she has us'd me: Is't not a good
mother?

Ism. Why kill'd you her not?

Leuc. The gods forbid it!

Ism. 'Slight,

If all the women in the world were barren,

³⁵ *Madam, we kiss your hand, and so inspire.*

Nothing but happiness can crown our prayers.] The omission of
a letter and the insertion of a false point, which turn part of these
lines into nonsense, has pass'd through all the editions. Mr. Sympson
has sent me the same correction.

Seward.

Sh' had

Sh' had died !

Leuc. But 'tis not reason directs thee thus.

Ifm. Then have I none at all ; for all I've in me
Directs me. Your father's in a pretty rage.

Leuc. Why ?

Ifm. Nay, it is well if he know himself :
But some of the nobility have deliver'd
A petition to him ; what is in't
I know not ; but it has put him t' his trumps ;
He has taken a month's time to answer it,
And chafes like himself.

Enter Leontius, Bacha, and Telamon.

Leuc. He's here, Ifmenus.

Leon. Set me down, Telamon !—Leucippus !

Leuc. Sir.

Bacha. Nay, good Sir, be at peace ! I dare swear
He knew not of it.

Leon. You are foolish ; peace !

Bacha. All will go ill ! Deny it boldly, Sir ;
Trust me, he cannot prove it by you.

Leuc. What ?

Bacha. You'll make all worse too with your facing it,

Leuc. What is the matter ?

Leon. Know'st thou that petition ?
Look on it well ! Wouldst thou be join'd with me ?
Unnatural child ! to be weary o' me, ere Fate
Esteem me fit for other worlds !

Bacha. May be
He knows not of it.

Leuc. Oh, strange carriages !
Sir, as I've hope that there is any thing
To reward doing well, my usages,
Which have been—but it is no matter what—
Have put me so far from the thought of greatness,
That I should welcome it like a disease
That grew upon me, and I could not cure.
They are my enemies that gave you this ;
And yet they call me friend, and are themselves

I fear

490 CUPID'S REVENGE,

I fear abus'd. I'm weary of my life;
For God's sake, take it from me! it creates
More mischief in the state than it is worth.
The usage I have had, I know, would make
Wisdom herself run frantic thro' the streets,
And Patience quarrel with her shadow. Sir,
This sword——

Bacha. Alas! help, for the love of Heav'n!
Make way thro' me first; for he is your father!

Leon. What, would he kill me?

Bacha. No, Sir, no.

Leon. Thou always mak'st the best on't; but I fear——

Leuc. Why do you use me thus? Who is't can think
That I would kill my father, that can yet
Forbear to kill you?—Here, Sir, is my sword;
I dare not touch it, lest she say again
I would have kill'd you. Let me not have mercy
When I most need it, if I would not change
Place with my meanest servant!—Let these faults
Be mended, madam! if you saw how ill
They did become you, you would part with them,

Bacha. I told the duke as much before.

Leuc. What? what did you tell him?

Bacha. That it was only an ambition,
Nurs'd in you by your youth, provok'd you thus,
Which age would take away.

Leon. It was his doing then?—Come hither, love!

Bacha. No, indeed, Sir,

Leuc. How am I made, that I can bear all this?
If any one had us'd a friend of mine near this,
My hand had carried death about it.

Leon. Lead me hence, Telamon!

Come, my dear Bacha! I shall find time for this.

Ism. Madam, you know I dare not speak before
The king; but you know well, (if not, I'll tell you)
You're the most wicked, and most murderous strumpet,
That ever was call'd woman!

Bacha. My lord,
What I can do for him, he shall command me.

Leon,

Leon. I know thou art too kind : Away, I say !

[*Exeunt Leon. Bacha, Tim. and Tel.*]

Ism. Sir, I am sure we dream ! this cannot be.

Leuc. Oh, that we did ! My wickedness has brought
All this to pass, else I should bear myself.

[*Urania passes over the stage.*]

Ism. Look ! do you see who's there ? your virtuous
mother's issue :

Kill her yet ! take some little piddling revenge.

Leuc. Away ! the whole court calls her virtuous ;
for they say,

She is unlike her mother ; and if so,
She can have no vice.

Ism. I'll trust none of 'em
That come of such a breed.

Leuc. But I have found
A kind of love in her to me. Alas !
Think of her death ? I dare be sworn for her,
She is as free from any hate to me
As her bad mother's full. She was brought up
I'th' country, as her tongue will let you know,

Enter Urania.

If you but talk with her, with a poor uncle,
Such as her mother had.

Ism. She's come again.

Ura. I would fain speak to the good marquis,
My brother, if I but thought he could abaid me.

Leuc. Sister, how do you ?

Ura. Very well, I thank you.

Ism. How does your good mother ?

Leuc. Fy, fy, Ismenus !

For shame ! mock such an innocent soul as this ?

Ura. Feth, a she be no good, God may her so !

Leuc. I know you wish it with your heart, dear sister !
But she is good, I hope.

Ism. Are you so simple,
To make so much of this ? Do you not know,
That all her wicked mother labours for

492 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Is but to raise her to your right, and leave her
This dukedom?

Ura. Ay; but ne'er, Sir, be afraid;
For tho' she take th' ungainest weas she can,
I'll ne'er ha't fro' you.

Leuc. I should hate myself, Ismenus,
If I should think of her simplicity
Aught but extremely well.

Ism. Nay, as you will!

Ura. And tho' she be my mother,
If she take any course to do you wrang,
If I can see't, you'll quickly hear on't, Sir:
And so I'll take my leave.

Leuc. Farewell, good sister!
I thank you. [Exit Urania,

Ism. You believe all this?

Leuc. Yes,

Enter Timantus.

Ism. A good faith doth well; but, methinks,
It were no hard matter now for her mother to send her.
Yonder's one you may trust if you will too.

Leuc. So I will, if he can shew me as apparent signs
Of truth as she did. Does he weep, Ismenus?

Ism. Yes, I think so; some good's happen'd I warrant,
Do you hear, you? What honest man has scap'd misery,
That thou art crying thus?

Tim. Noble Ismenus,
Where is the prince?

Ism. Why, there: Hast wept thine eyes out?

Tim. Sir, I beseech you hear me.

Leuc. Well, speak on.

Ism. Why, will you hear him?

Leuc. Yes, Ismenus; why?

Ism. I would hear blasphemy as willingly,

Leuc. You are to blame.

Tim. No, Sir, he's not to blame,
If I were as I was.

Ism. Nor as thou art,
I faith, awhit to blame.

Leuc.

Leuc. What is your business?

Tim. Faith, Sir, I am ashamed to speak before you;
My conscience tells me I have injur'd you,
And, by the earnest instigation
Of others, have not done you to the king
Always the best and friendliest offices:

Which pardon me, or I will never speak!

Ism. Never pardon him, and silence a knave!

Leuc. I pardon thee.

Tim. Your mother sure is naught.

Leuc. Why shouldst thou think so?

Tim. Oh, noble Sir, your honest eyes perceive not
The dangers you are led to: Shame upon her,
And what fell miseries the gods can think on,
Show'r down upon her wicked head! She has plotted,
I know too well, your death: 'Would my poor life,
Or thousand such as mine is, might be offer'd
Like sacrifices up for your preserving;
What free oblations would she have to glut her!
But she is merciless, and bent to ruin,
If Heav'n and good men step not to your rescue,
And timely, very timely. Oh, this dukedom!
I weep, I weep for the poor orphans in
This country, left without or friends or parents³⁶.

Leuc. Now, Ismenus, what think you of this fellow?
This was a lying knave, a flatterer!
Does not this love still shew him so?

Ism. This love? this halter! If he prove not yet
The cunning'st, rankest rogue that ever canted,

³⁶ *I weep, I weep for the poor orphans i' th' country*

Left with but friends or parents.] The villany of Timantus will not allow him to talk absurdly; his art imposes on the prince, and he should therefore at least speak sense. And indeed how easy was the mistake of *without* to *with but*? This being made, the repetition of the *or* was absurd, and being left out the measure was spoilt, and consequently believed to be no measure at all. This process of the corruption seems natural, and therefore I hope I have only restored the original. Mr. Sympfon joins in correcting *with but* to *without*. Seward.

Quarto 1635 reads, *Left with but friends, NOT parents.*

494 CUPID'S REVENGE.

I'll ne'er see man again ³⁷ ! I know him to bring ³⁸,
And can interpret ev'ry new face he makes.
Look how he wrings, like a good stool, for a tear !
Take heed ;

Children and fools first feel the smart, then weep.

Leuc. Away, away ! such an unkind distrust
Is worse than a dissembling, if it be one,
And sooner leads to mischief : I believe it,
And him an honest man ; he could not carry,
Under an evil cause, so true a sorrow.

Jsm. Take heed ! this is your mother's scorpion,
That carries stings ev'n in his tears, whose soul
Is a rank poison thorough : Touch not at him ;
If you do, you're gone, if you'd twenty lives.
I knew him for a roguish boy,
When he would poison dogs, and keep tame toads ;
He lay with his mother, and infected her,
And now she begs i' th' hospital, with a patch
Of velvet where her nose stood, like the queen of
spades,
And all her teeth in her purse. The devil and
This fellow are so near, 'tis not yet known
Which is the ev'ler angel.

Leuc. Nay, then I see 'tis spite. Come hither, friend !
Hast thou not heard the cause yet that incens'd
My mother to my death ? for I protest
I feel none in myself.

Tim. Her will, Sir, and ambition, as I think,
Are the provokers of it, as in women
Those two are ever powerful to destruction ;

³⁷ *I'll ne'er see man again.*] Seward call this ' absurd,' and substitutes *seem* for *see* : We think the expression easy and natural.

³⁸ — *I know him to bring,*

And can interpret ev'ry new face he makes.] Unless a whole line be left out after *bring*, or the first part be made an imperfect sentence, which would be very improper here, this seems quite unintelligible. I read, — *I know him to b' a rogue*, which is much nearer the trace of the letters than it seems in the pronunciation ; *ring* and *rogue* having two of the same letters, and a third, *u* and *n*, extremely like each other.

Seward.

Beside

Beside a hate of your still-growing virtues,
She being only wicked.

Leuc. Heav'ns defend me,
As I am innocent, and ever have been,
From all immoderate thoughts and actions,
That carry such rewards along with 'em !

Tim. Sir, all I know my duty must reveal;
My country and my love command it from me,
For whom I'll lay my life down: This night coming,
A counsel is appointed by the duke,
To sit about your apprehension :
If you dare trust my faith, (which, by all good things,
Shall ever watch about you !) go along,
And to a place I'll guide you, where no word
Shall scape without your hearing, nor no plot,
Without discovering to you ; which once known,
You have your answers and prevention.

Ism. You're not so mad to go ? shift off this fellow !
You shall be rul'd once by a wise man. Ratbane !
Get you gone, or——

Leuc. Peace, peace for shame ! thy love is too
suspicious ;
'Tis a way offer'd to preserve my life,
And I will take it. Be my guide, Timantus,
And do not mind this angry man ! thou know'st him.
I may live to requite thee.

Tim. Sir, this service
Is done for Virtue's sake, not for reward,
However he may hold me.

Ism. The great pox on you ! but thou hast that curse
So much, 'twill grow a blessing in thee shortly.
Sir, for Wisdom's sake, court not your death ! I am
Your friend and subject, and I shall lose in both ;
If I lov'd you not, I would laugh at you, and see you
Run your neck into the noose, and cry, a woodcock !

Leuc. So much of man, and so much fearful ? fy !
Prithee have peace within thee ! I shall live yet
Many a golden day to hold thee here,
Dearest and nearest to me. Go on, Timantus !

I charge

496 CUPID'S REVENGE.

I charge you by your love, no more, no more!

[*Exeunt Leuc. and Tim.*]

Ism. Go, and let your own rod whip you! I pity you;
And, dog, if he miscarry, thou shalt pay for't:
I'll study for thy punishment, and it shall last
Longer and sharper than a tedious winter,
'Till thou blasphem'st; and then thou diest and
damn'st. [Exit.]

Enter Leontius and Telamon.

Leon. I wonder the duchess comes not.

Tel. She has heard, Sir, your will is to speak
with her:

But there is something leaden at her heart,
(Pray God it be not mortal!) that ev'n keeps her
From conversation with herself.

Enter Bacha.

Bacha. Oh, whither
Will you, my cross affections, pull me? Fortune,
Fate,
And you whose powers direct our actions,
And dwell within us, you that are angels
Guiding to Virtue, wherefore have you given
So strong a hand to evil? wherefore suffer'd
A temple of your own, you deities,
Where your fair selves dwelt only, and your goodness,
Thus to be foil'd with sin?

Leon. Heav'n bless us all!
From whence comes this distemper? Speak, my
fair one!

Bacha. And have you none, Love and Obedience,
You ever faithful servants, to employ
In this strange story of impiety,
But me? a mother? Must I be your trumpet³⁹,
To lay black treason open⁴⁰? and in him

³⁹ *Must I be your trumpet?*] Was she frightened at the idea of being
a *strumpet* to Love and Obedience? Surely *trumpet* is the true reading.

⁴⁰ *To lay black treason upon.*] Corrected in 1750.

In whom all sweetness was ; in whom my love
Was proud to have a being ; in whom Justice,
And all the gods, for our imaginations ⁴¹,
Can work into a man, were more than virtues ?
Ambition, down to Hell, where thou wert foster'd !
Th'haſt poiſon'd the beſt ſoul, the pureſt, whiteſt,
And meereſt innocence itſelf ⁴², that ever
Man's greedy hopes gave life to.

Leon. This is ſtill ſtranger ! lay this treaſon open
To my correction.

Bacha. Oh, what a combat Duty and Affection
Breed in my blood !

Leon. If thou conceal'ſt him, may,
Beſide my death, the curſes of the country,
Troubles of conſcience, and a wretched end,
Bring thee unto a poor forgotten grave !

Bacha. My being, for another tongue to tell it !
Oh, eaſe a mother, ſome good man that dares
Speak for his king and country ⁴³ ! I am full
Of too much woman's pity : Yet, oh, Heav'n,
Since it concerns the ſafety of my ſovereign,

⁴¹ For our imaginations.] Symphon would read *imitations* inſtead of *imaginations* : We think the text beſt. If the paſſage is at all corrupt, we ſhould perhaps read *OR*, not *FOR* our imaginations.

⁴² And meereſt innocentſt.] Mr. Theobald had prevented me in this correction. *Seward.*

⁴³ *My being : For another tongue to tell it,
Cease, a mother ! ſome good man that dares
Speak for his king and country : I am full
Of too much woman's pity.*] Few emendations have given me ſo much pleaſure as that of this paſſage. The corruption lay in the loſs only of about a fifth part of a letter, and yet it utterly ſpoil'd both metre and ſenſe, where both were very beautiful. It coſt me two or three turns before I could hit upon it, but when mention'd it carries immediate conviction. Inſtead of *Cease a mother*, it is only turning the *C* into an *O*.

*O ! eaſe a mother ſome good man that dares
Speak for his king and country.* *Seward.*

Seward's variation here is ingenious and plauſible, though perhaps the paſſage will not appear corrupt, when the points are altered, thus :

*My being, for another tongue to tell it,
Cease ! A mother ? Some good man, &c.*

498 C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

Let it not be a cruelty in me,
Nor draw a mother's name in question
'Mongst unborn people, to give up that man
To law and justice, that unrighteously
Has fought his father's death! Be deaf, be deaf, Sir!
Your son is the offender: Now have you all;
'Would I might never speak again!

Leon. My son?

Heav'n help me! No more! I thought it;
And since his life is grown so dangerous,
Let them that gave him, take him! he shall die,
And with him all my fears.

Bacha. Oh, use your mercy!

You've a brave subject to bestow it on.
I will forgive him, Sir; and for his wrong
To me, I'll be before you.

Leon. Durst his villainy

Extend to thee?

Bacha. Nothing but heats of youth, Sir.

Leon. Upon my life he fought my bed.

Bacha. I must confess he lov'd me

Somewhat beyond a son; and still pursu'd it
With such a lust, I will not say ambition,
That clean forgetting all obedience,
And only following his first heat unto me,
He hotly fought your death, and me in marriage.

Leon. Oh, villain!

Bacha. But I forget all; and am half asham'd
To press a man so far.

Enter Timantus.

Tim. Where is the duke!

For God's sake, bring me to him!

Leon. Here I am.

Each corner of the dukedom sends new affrights forth!
What wouldst thou? Speak!

Tim. I cannot, Sir; my fear

Ties up my tongue.

Leon. Why, what's the matter? Take

Thy .

Thy courage to thee, and boldly speak ! Where are
The guard ? In the gods' name, out with it !

Tim. Treason, treason !

Leon. In whom ?

Bacha. Double the guard !

Tim. There is a fellow, Sir —

Leon. Leave shaking, man !

Tim. 'Tis not for fear, but wonder.

Leon. Well ?

Tim. There is a fellow, Sir,
Close in the lobby : You o' the guard,
Look to the door there !

Leon. But let me know the business.

Tim. Oh, that the hearts of men should be so harden'd
Against so good a duke ! For God's sake, Sir,
Seek means to save yourself : This wretched slave
Has his sword in his hand ; I know his heart :
Oh, it hath almost kill'd me with the thought of it !

Leon. Where is he ?

Enter the Guard.

Tim. I' th' lobby, Sir, close in a corner :
Look to yourselves, for Heaven's sake ! methinks,
He's here already. Fellows of the guard, be valiant !

Leon. Go, Sirs, and apprehend him : Treason shall
Never dare me in mine own gates.

Tim. 'Tis done. [*Guard bring the prince in.*]

Bacha. And thou shalt find it to thy best content.

Leon. Are these the comforts of my age ? They're
happy

That end their days contented with a little,
And live aloof from dangers ! to a king
Every content doth a new peril bring.
Oh, let me live no longer ! Shame of Nature,
Bastard to Honour, traitor, murderer,
Devil in a human shape ! Away with him ;
He shall not breathe his hot infection here.

Leuc. Sir, hear me.

Leon. Am I or he your duke ? Away with him

500 CUPID'S REVENGE.

To a close prison! Your highness now shall know,
Such branches must be cropt before they grow.

Leuc. Whatever fortune comes, I bid it welcome;
My innocence is my armour: Gods preserve you! [*Exit.*

Bacha. Fare thee well!

I shall ne'er see so brave a gentleman.

'Would I could weep out his offences!

Tim. Or

I could weep out mine eyes!

Leon. Come, gentlemen!

We will determine presently about his death;

We cannot be too forward in our safety.

I'm very sick; lead me unto my bed! [*Exe.*

Enter Citizen and his Boy.

Cit. Sirrah, go fetch my fox from the cutler's⁴⁴:
There's money for the scow'ring: Tell him I stop
A groat since th'last great muster, he had in stone pitch
For th' bruise he took, with the recoiling of his gun.

Boy. Yes, Sir.

Cit. And (do you hear?) when you come, take
down my buckler,

And sweep the cobwebs off, and grind the pick on't,

And fetch a nail or two, and tack on the bracers:

Your mistress made a pot-lid on't, I thank her,

At her maid's wedding, and burnt off the handle.

Boy. I will, Sir.

[*Exit.*

Cit. Who's within here? Ho, neighbour!
Not stirring yet?

Enter Second Citizen.

2 *Cit.* Oh, good morrow, good morrow!
What news, what news?

1 *Cit.* It holds, he dies this morning.

2 *Cit.* Then happy man be his fortune! I'm resolv'd.

1 *Cit.* And so am I, and forty more good fellows,
That will not give their heads for the washing, I take it.

2 *Cit.* 'Sfoot, man, who would not hang in such
good company,

⁴⁴ My fox;] i. e. My sword. See note 36 on King and No King.
And

And such a cause? A fire o' wife and children!
'Tis such a jest, that men should look behind 'em
To th' world, and let their honours, their honours,
neighbours, slip.

1 *Cit.* I'll give thee a pint of bastard and a roll,
For that bare word.

2 *Cit.* They say, that we tailors are
Things that lay one another, and our geese hatch us:
I'll make some of 'em feel they are geese o' th' game then.
Jack, take down my bill; 'tis ten to one I use it.—
Take a good heart, man! all the low ward is ours,
With a wet finger.—

And lay my cut-finger'd gauntlet ready for me,
That that I us'd to work in, when the gentlemen
Were up against us, and beaten out of town,
And almost out of debt too; for, a plague on 'em,
They never paid well since! And take heed, firrah,
Your mistress hears not of this business;
She's near her time: Yet, if she do, I care not;
She may long for rebellion, for she has
A devilish spirit.

1 *Cit.* Come, let's call up the new ironmonger!
He is as tough as steel, and has a fine wit
In these resurrections. Are you stirring, neighbour?

3 *Cit.* [*within.*] Oh, good morrow, neighbours!
I'll come to you presently.

2 *Cit.* Go to!

This is his mother's doing; she's a polecat!

1 *Cit.* As any is in the world.

2 *Cit.* Then say I've hit it; and a vengeance on her,
Let her be what she will!

1 *Cit.* Amen say I!

Sh' has brought things to a fine pass with her wisdom,
Do you mark it?

2 *Cit.* One thing I am sure she has, the good old
duke;

She gives him pap again, they say, and dandles him,
And hangs a coral and bells about his neck,
And makes him believe his teeth will come again;

502 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Which, if they did, and I he, I would worry her
As never cur was worried ⁴⁶! I would, neighbour,
'Till my teeth met I know where; but that's counsel.

Enter Third Citizen.

3 *Cit.* Good morrow, neighbours! Hear you the
sad news?

1 *Cit.* Yes; 'would we knew as well how to prevent it!

3 *Cit.* I cannot tell: Methinks, 'twere no great matter,
If men were men; but——

2 *Cit.* You do not twit me with my calling, neighbour?

3 *Cit.* No, surely; for I know your spirit to be tall:
Pray be not vex'd!

2 *Cit.* Pray forward with your counsel.

I'm what I am, and they that prove me shall
Find me to their cost—Do you mark me, neighbour!
To their cost, I say.

1 *Cit.* Nay, look how soon you're angry!

2 *Cit.* They shall, neighbours; yes, I say they shall.

3 *Cit.* I do believe they shall.

1 *Cit.* I know they shall.

2 *Cit.* Whether you do or no, I care not two-pence!
I am no beast; I know mine own strength, neighbours:
God bless the king! Your companies is fair.

1 *Cit.* Nay, neighbour, now ye err; I must tell you so,
An ye were twenty neighbours.

3 *Cit.* You had best
Go peach; do, peach!

2 *Cit.* *Peach?* I scorn the motion.

3 *Cit.* Do, and see what follows! I'll spend an
hundred pound

(An't be two, I care not), but I'll undo thee.

2 *Cit.* *Peach?* oh, disgrace! *peach* in thy face! and do
The worst thou canst! I am a true-man, and a free-man!
Peach?

1 *Cit.* Nay, look, you will spoil all.

⁴⁶ *As never cur was worried.*] As this is sense I don't change it,
but *cat* is a much more common, as well as more proper comparison,
than *cur* to a shrew.

Seward.

2 *Cit.*

2 *Cit.* *Peach?*

1 *Cit.* Whilst you two brawl together,
The prince will lose his life.

3 *Cit.* Come, give me your hand!
I love you well. Are you for the action?

2 *Cit.* Yes;
But *peach* provokes me! 'tis a cold fruit; I feel it
Cold in my stomach still.

3 *Cit.* No more! I'll give you cake to digest it.

Enter Fourth Citizen.

4 *Cit.* Shut up my shop, and be ready at a call, boys!
And one o' you run o'er my old tuck with a few ashes
('Tis grown odious with toasting cheese), and burn
A little juniper in my murrion (the maid made it
Her chamber-pot); an hour hence I'll come again.
And, as you hear from me, send me a clean shirt!

3 *Cit.* The chandler by the wharf, an it be thy will!

2 *Cit.* Gossip, good morrow!

4 *Cit.* Oh, good morrow, gossip!
Good morrow, all! I see ye of one mind,
Ye cleave so close together. Come; 'tis time!
I have prepar'd an hundred, if they stand.

1 *Cit.* 'Tis well done: Shall we sever, and about it?

3 *Cit.* First, let's to th' tavern! and a pint apiece
Will make us dragons.

2 *Cit.* I will have no mercy,
Come what will of it.

4 *Cit.* If my tuck hold, I'll spit
The guard like larks with sage between 'em,

2 *Cit.* I have
A foolish bill to reckon with 'em, will make
Some of their hearts ache, and I'll lay it on!
Now shall I fight, 'twill do you good to see me.

3 *Cit.* Come, I'll do something for the town to talk of
When I am rotten: Pray God there be enough
To kill, that's all!

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Dorialus, Nifus, and Agenor.

Age. How black the day begins!

Dor. Can you blame it, and look

Upon such a deed as shall be done this morning?

Nifus. Does the prince suffer to-day?

Dor. Within this hour, they say.

Age. Well, they that are most wicked are most safe.

'Twill be a strange justice, and a lamentable:

Gods keep us from the too-soon feeling of it!

Dor. I care not if my throat were next; for to live still,

And live here, were but to grow fat for the shambles.

Nifus. Yet we must do't, and thank 'em too, that our lives

May be accepted.

Age. Faith, I'll go starve myself,

Or grow diseas'd, to shame the hangman; for

I'm sure he shall be my herald, and quarter me.

Dor. Ay, a plague on him, he's too excellent at arms.

Nifus. Will you go see this sad sight, my lord Agenor?

Age. I'll make a mourner.

Dor. If I could do him any good, I would go;

The bare sight else would but afflict my spirit:

My prayers shall be as near him as your eyes.

As ye find him settled, remember my love and service

To his Grace.

Nifus. We will weep for you, Sir. Farewell! [*Exe.*

Dor. Farewell!

To all our happiness, a long farewell!

Thou angry Power, whether of heav'n or hell,

That lay'st this sharp correction on our kingdom

For our offences, infinite and mighty!

Oh, hear me, and at length be pleas'd, be pleas'd

With pity to draw back thy vengeance,

Too heavy for our weakness; and accept

(Since it is your discretion, heav'nly wisdoms,

To have it so) this sacrifice for all,

That now is flying to your happiness,

Only

Only for you most fit; let all our sins

[*A shout within.*]

Suffer in him!—Gods, what's the matter? I hope
'Tis joy: How now, my lords?

Enter Aganor and Nisus.

Nisus. I'll tell you with that little breath I have:
More joy than you dare think; the prince is safe
From danger.

Dor. How!

Age. 'Tis true, and thus it was: His hour was come
To lose his life; he, ready for the stroke,
Nobly, and full of saint-like patience,
Went with his guard; which when the people saw,
Compassion first went out, mingled with tears,
That bred desires, and whispers to each other,
To do some worthy kindness for the prince;
And ere they understood well how to do,
Fury step'd in, and taught them what to do,
Thrusting on every hand to rescue him,
As a white innocent. Then flew the roar
Thro' all the streets, of *Save him, save him, save him!*
And as they cried, they did; for catching up
Such sudden weapons as their madness shew'd them,
In short, they beat the guard, and took him from 'em,
And now march with him like a royal army.

Dor. Heav'n, Heav'n, I thank thee! what a slave
was I

To have my hand so far from this brave rescue!
'Thad been a thing to brag on when I was old.
Shall we run for a wager to the next temple,
And give thanks?

Nisus. As fast as wishes.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Leucippus and Ismenus; the people within stop.

Leuc. Good friends, go home again! there's not a
man

Shall go with me.

Ism. Will you not take revenge?

I'll

506 CUPID'S REVENGE.

I'll call them on.

Leuc. All that love me, depart !
I thank you, and will serve you for your loves ;
But I will thank you more to suffer me
To govern 'em. Once more, I do beg ye,
For my sake, to your houses !

Omnes [*within*]. Gods preserve you !

Ism. And what house will you go to ?

Leuc. Ismenus, I will take the wariest courses
That I can think of to defend myself,
But not offend.

Ism. You may kill your mother, and ne'er offend
your father,
Or any honest man⁴⁸.

Leuc. Thou know'st I can
'Scape now ; that's all I look for. I will leave——

Ism. Timantus, a pox take him ! 'would I had him
here !

I'd kill him at his own weapon, single scithes.
We've built enough on him. Plague on't, I'm out of
All patience ! discharge such an army as this,
That would have follow'd you without paying ? Oh,
gods !

Leuc. To what end shall I keep 'em ? I am free.

Ism. Yes, free o'th' traitors ; for you are proclaim'd
one.

Leuc. Should I therefore make myself one ?

Ism. This is one of
Your moral philosophy, is it ? Heav'n bless me
From subtilties to undo myself with ! but I know,
If Reason herself were here, she would not part
With her own safety.

Leuc. Well, pardon, Ismenus ! for I know
My courses are most just ; nor will I stain 'em
With one bad action. For thyself, thou know'st,
That tho' I may command thee, I shall be

⁴⁸ You may kill your mother, and ne'er offend your father, an honest man.] Former editions. Both sense and measure require the emendation,

Seward.

A ready

A ready servant unto thee, if thou need'st :
And so I'll take my leave.

Ism. Of whom?

Leuc. Of thee.

Ism. Heart, you shall take no leave of me!

Leuc. Shall I not?

Ism. No, by the gods, shall you not! Nay, if you have
No more wit but to go absolutely alone,
I'll be in a little.

Leuc. Nay, prithee, good Ismenus,
Part with me!

Ism. I wo'n't, i'faith! ne'er move it
Any more; for by this good light, I wo'not!

Leuc. This is an ill time to be thus unruly:
Ismenus, you must leave me.

Ism. Yes, if you can
Beat me away; else the gods refuse me,
If I will leave you till I see more reason!
You sha'n't undo yourself.

Leuc. But why wilt not leave me?

Ism. Why, I will tell you: Because when you are
gone,
Then—Life, if I have not forgot my reason,
Hell take me! you put me out of patience so.
Oh! marry, when you are gone, then will your mother
—A pox confound her—she ne'er comes in my head,
But she spoils my'memory too. There are a hundred
reasons.

Leuc. But shew me one.

Ism. Shew you? what a stir here is!
Why, I will shew you: Do you think—well, well,
I know what I know; I pray come, come! 'Tis in vain,
But I am sure—Devils take 'em! what do I meddle
with them?

You know yourself—Soul, I think I am—
Is there any man i'th' world—As if you knew not this
Already better than I! Pish, pish, I'll give no reason!

Leuc. But I will tell thee one, why thou shouldst stay:
I have not one friend in the court but thou,

On

508 CUPID'S REVENGE.

On whom I may be bold to trust to send me
Any intelligence; and if thou lov'st me,
Thou wilt do this; thou need'st not fear to stay,
For there are new-come proclamations out,
Where all are pardon'd but myself.

Ism. 'Tis true;

And i'th' same proclamation your fine sister
Urania, whom you us'd so kindly, is proclaim'd heir
Apparent to the crown.

Leuc. What tho', thou may'st stay at home without
danger?

Ism. Danger? hang danger! what tell you me of
danger?

Leuc. Why, if thou wilt not do't, I think thou
dar'st not.

Ism. I dare not? If you speak it in earnest, you are
A boy.

Leuc. Well, Sir, if you dare, let me see you do't.

Ism. Why, so you shall; I will stay.

Leuc. Why, God-a-mercy——

Ism. You know I love you but too well!

Leuc. Now take these few directions, and farewell!
Send to me by the wariest ways thou canst:
I have a soul tells me we shall meet often.
The gods protect thee!

Ism. Pox o' myself for an ass,
I'm crying now! God be with you! if I never
See you again, why then—Pray get you gone;
For grief and anger wo'not let me know
What I say. I'll to the court
As fast as I can, and see the new heir apparent.

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T V.

Enter Urania (in boy's cloaths) and her Maid.

Ura. **W**HAT, hast thou found him?

Maid. Madam, he's coming in.

Ura. Gods bless my brother, wheresoe'er he is!
And I beseech you keep me fro' the bed
Of any naughty tyrant, whom my mother
Would ha'me have to wrong him.

Enter Ismenus.

Ism. What would her new Grace have with me?

Ura. Leave us awhile. My lord Ismenus, [*Ex. Maid.*]
I pray, for the love of Heav'n and God,
That you would tell me one thing, which I know
You can do weel.

Ism. Where's her fain Grace?

Ura. You know me weel inough, but that you mock;
I'm she mysen.

Ism. God bless him that shall be
Thy husband! if thou wear'st breeches thus soon,
Thou'lt be as impudent as thy mother.

Ura. But will you
Tell me this one thing?

Ism. What is it? if it
Be no great matter whether I do or no,
Perhaps I will.

Ura. Yes, faith, 'tis matter.

Ism. And what is't?

Ura. I pray you let me know where the prince my
brother is.

Ism. I'faith, you shan be hang'd first!
Is your mother so foolish to think your good Grace
Can sift it out of me?

Ura. If you have any mercy

Left

510 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Left in you to a poor wench, tell me !

Ism. Why,

Wouldst not thou have thy brains beat out for this,
To follow thy mother's steps so young ?

Ura. But, believe me, she knows none of this.

Ism. Believe you ?

Why do you think I never had wits ?

Or that I am run out of them ? How should it
Belong to you to know, if I could tell ?

Ura. Why, I will tell you ; and if I speak false,
Let the de'il ha' me ! Yonder's a bad man,
Come from a tayrant to my mother, and what name
They ha' for him, good feith, I cannot tell.

Ism. An ambassador ?

Ura. That's it : But he would carry me away,
And have me marry his master ; and I'll daye
Ere I will ha' him.

Ism. But what's this to knowing
Where the prince is ?

Ura. Yes ; for ye know all my mother does
Agen the prince, is but to ma me great.

Ism. Pray, (I know that too well) what then ?

Ura. Why,

I would go to the good marquis my brother,
And put myself into his hands, that so
He may preserve himself.

Ism. Oh, that thou hadst no seed of thy mother in
thee,

And couldst mean this now !

Ura. Why, ifeth I do ;

'Would I might never stir more if I do not !

Ism. I shall prove a ridiculous fool, I'll be damn'd else :
Hang me, if I don't half believe thee !

Ura. By my troth,

You may.

Ism. By my troth, I do ! I know I'm an afs for't,
But I can't help it.

Ura. And won you tell me then ?

Ism. Yes, faith will I, or any thing else i'th' world ;
For

For I think thou art as good a creature as
Ever was born.

Ura. But ail go i'this lad's repanel;
But you mun help me to silver.

Ifm. Help thee? why, the pox take him
That will not help thee to any thing i'th' world!
I'll help thee to money, and I'll do't presently too;
And yet—Soul, if you should play the scurvy harlotry,
The little pocky baggage now, and cozen me,
What then?

Ura. Why, an I do, would I might ne'er
See day again!

Ifm. Nay, by this light, I do not think
Thou wilt: I'll presently provide thee
Money and a letter. [Exit.

Ura. Ay, but I'll ne'er deliver it.
When I have found my brother, I will beg
To serve him; but he shall ne'er know who I am;
For he must hate me then for my bad mother:
I'll say I am a country lad that want a service,
And have straid on him by chance, lest he discover me.
I know I must not live long, but that taim
I ha' to spend, shall be in serving him.
And tho' my mother seek to take his life away,
In ai day⁴⁹ my brother shall be taught
That I was ever good, tho' she were naught. [Exit.

Enter Bacha and Timantus; Bacha reading a letter.

Bacha. Run away? the devil be her guide!

Tim. Faith, she's gone!

There is a letter; I found it in her pocket.
'Would I were with her! she's a handsome lady;
A plague upon my bashfulness! I had bobb'd her
Long ago else.

Bacha. What a base whore is this, that, after all
My ways for her advancement, should so poorly
Make Virtue her undoer, and chuse this time,
The king being deadly sick, and I intending

⁴⁹ In ai day;] i. e. In one day.

512 C U P I D ' S R E V E N G E .

A present marriage with some foreign prince,
To strengthen and secure myself! She writes here,
Like a wise gentlewoman, she will not stay;
And the example of her dear brother makes her
Fear herself⁵⁰, to whom she means to fly.

Tim. Why, who can help it?

Bacha. Now poverty and lechery, which is thy end,
Rot thee, where'er thou goest, with all thy goodness!

Tim. By'r lady they'll bruise her, an she were of brass!
I'm sure they'll break stone walls: I've had experience
O' them both, and they have made me desperate.
But there's a messenger, madam, come from the prince
With a letter to Ismenus, who by him
Returns an answer.

Bacha. This comes as pat as wishes:
Thou shalt presently away, Timantus.

Tim. Whither, madam?

Bacha. To the prince; and take the messenger for
guide!

Tim. What shall I do there? I have done too much
Mischief to be believ'd again; or, indeed, to 'scape
With my head on my back, if I be once known.

Bacha. Thou'rt a weak shallow fool! Get thee a
disguise;
And withal, when thou com'st before him, have a letter
Feign'd to deliver him; and then, as thou
Hast ever hope of goodness by me, or after me,
Strike one home stroke that shall not need another!
Dar'st thou? speak! dar'st thou? If thou fallest off,
Go be a rogue again, and lie and pandar
To procure thy meat! Dar'st thou? speak to me!

Tim. Sure I shall never walk when I am dead,
I have no spirit. Madam, I'll be drunk,
But I will do it; that is all my refuge. [Exit.]

Bacha. Away! no more! Then I will raise an army
Whilst the king yet lives, if all the means and power
I have can do it; I can't tell.

⁵⁰ Fear *her*self.] Seward reads, *Fear for herself*; but the text is good sense, according to the idiom prevailing in our Authors' time.

Enter

Enter Ismenus and the three lords.

Ism. Are you inventing still? we'll ease your studies.

Bacha. Why, how now, faucy lords?

Ism. Nay, I'll shake you! yes, devil, I will shake you!

Bacha. Do not you know me, lords?

Nis. Yes, deadly sin, we know you: 'Would we did not!

Ism. Do you hear, whore? a plague o' God upon thee! The duke is dead.

Bacha. Dead?

Ism. Ay,

Wildfire and brimstone take thee! Good man, he is dead, and past those miseries, which thou, Thou salt infection like, like a disease Flungest upon his head. Dost thou hear? An 'twere Not more respect to womanhood in general Than thee, because I had a mother, who— I will not say she was good, she liv'd so near Thy time—I would have thee, in vengeance of This man, whose peace is made in Heav'n by this time, Tied to a post, and dried i'th' sun; and after Carried about, and shewn at fairs for money, With a long story of the devil thy father, That taught thee to be whorish, envious, bloody.

Bacha. Ha, ha, ha!

Ism. You fleering harlot, I'll have a horse to leap thee, And thy base issue shall carry sumpters⁵¹. Come, lords; Bring her along! We'll to the prince all, where Her hell-hood shall wait his censure; and if he spare Thee, she-goat, may he lie with thee again! and beside, Mayst thou lay upon him some nasty foul disease, That hate still follows, and his end a dry ditch!— Lead, you corrupted whore, or I'll draw a goad Shall make you skip; away to the prince!

Bacha. Ha, ha, ha!

I hope yet I shall come too late to find him. [*Exeunt.*

⁵¹ Shall carry sumpters.] A sumpter horse is that which carries the provisions and baggage.

Cornets ⁵². *Cupid descends.*

Cupid. The time now of my revenge draws near;
Nor shall it lessen, as I am a god,
With all the cries and prayers that have been,
And those that be to come, tho' they be infinite
In need and number ⁵³! [*Ascends.*]

Enter Leucippus and Urania.

Leuc. Alas, poor boy, why dost thou follow me?
What canst thou hope for? I am poor as thou art.

Ura. In good feth, I shall be weel and rich enough
If you will love me, and not put me from you!

Leuc. Why dost thou chuse out me, boy, to undo
thee?

Alas, for pity, take another master,
That may be able to deserve thy love
In breeding thee hereafter! me thou knowest not,
More than my misery; and therefore canst not
Look for rewards at my hands: 'Would I were able,
My pretty knave, to do thee any kindness!
Truly, good boy, I would, upon my faith;
Thy harmless innocence moves me at heart.
Wilt thou go save thyself? Why dost thou weep?
Alas, I do not chide thee.

Ura. I cannot tell;

If I go from you, Sir, I shall ne'er draw day more:
Pray, if you can, (I will be true to you)
Let me wait on you! If I were a man,
I would fight for you: Sure you have some ill-willers;
I would slay 'em.

Leuc. Such harmless souls are ever prophets.

⁵² *Cornets.* *Cupid from above*] Seward, seeing 'no propriety' in the *cornets* 'belonging to Cupid,' places that direction at the end of the foregoing scene; but why displace the *cornets* here, since he inserts them on Cupid's other appearances? We have made this direction like the former.

⁵³ *Cupid, The time now, &c.*] This speech, till Seward very properly introduced it here, was placed at the end of the play, notwithstanding the direction quoted in the last note stood where it now does.

Well,

Well, take thy wish⁵⁴; thou shalt be with me still:
But, prithee eat, my good boy! thou wilt die,
My child, if thou fast one day more; these four days
Th' hast tasted nothing: Go into the cave,
And eat; thou shalt find something for thee,
To bring thy blood again, and thy fair colour.

Ura. I cannot eat, God thank you! but I'll eat
Tomorrow.

Leuc. Thou't be dead by that time.

Ura. I should be
Well then; for you'll not love me.

Leuc. Indeed I will.—

'This is the prettiest passion that e'er I felt yet!—
Why dost thou look so earnestly upon me?

Ura. You've fair eyes, master.

Leuc. Sure the boy dotes!—

Why dost thou sigh, my child?

Ura. To think that such

A fine man should live, and no gay lady love him.

Leuc. Thou wilt love me?

Ura. Yes sure, till I die; and when
I am in Heaven, I'll e'en wish for you.

Leuc. And I'll come to thee, boy.—This is a love
I never yet heard tell off.—Come, thou'rt sleepy, child;
Go in, and I'll sit with thee.—Heav'n, what portends
this?

Ura. You're sad, but I'm not sleepy: 'Would I could
Do aught to make you merry; shall I sing?

Leuc. If thou wilt, good boy. Alas, my boy, that thou
Shouldst comfort me, and art far worse than I!

Enter Timantus, disguised.

Ura. La', master, there is one; look to yourself!

Leuc. What art thou that into this dismal place,
Which nothing could find out but misery,
Thus boldly step'st? Comfort was never here;
Here is no food, nor beds, nor any house

⁵⁴ *Well, I take thy wish.]* The measure and sense both require us
to expunge the *I.*

516 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Built by a better architect than beasts;
And ere you get a dwelling from one of them,
You must fight for it: If you conquer him,
He is your meat; if not, you must be his.

Tim. I come to you (for, if I not mistake,
You are the prince) from that most noble lord
Ismenus, with a letter.

Ura. Alas, I fear
I shall be discover'd now.

Leuc. Now I feel
Myself the poorest of all mortal things:
Where is he that receives such courtesies
But he has means to shew his gratefulness
Some way or other? I have none at all!
I know not how to speak so much as well
Of thee, but to these trees.

Tim. His letters speak him, Sir.

Ura. Gods keep me but from knowing him till I die!
Ah me! sure I cannot live a day.

*[Leucippus opening the letter, the whilst Timantus
runs at him, and Urania steps before.]*

Oh, thou foul traitor? How do you, master?

Leuc. How dost thou, my child?—Alas! look on
this;

It may make thee repentant, to behold
Those innocent drops that thou hast drawn from thence.

Ura. 'Tis nothing, Sir, an you be well.

Tim. Oh, pardon me!

Know you me now, Sir?

Leuc. How couldst thou find me out?

Tim. We intercepted

A letter from Ismenus, and the bearer
Directed me.

Leuc. Stand up, Timantus, boldly!
The world conceives that thou art guilty
Of divers treasons to the state and me:
But oh, far be it from the innocence
Of a just man, to give a traitor death
Without a trial! Here the country is not

To purge thee or condemn thee⁵⁵; therefore take
 A nobler trial than thou dost deserve,
 Rather than none at all: Here I accuse thee,
 Before the face of Heav'n, to be a traitor
 Both to the duke my father and to me,
 And the whole land. Speak! is it so, or no?

Tim. 'Tis true, Sir: Pardon me!

Leuc. Take heed, Timantus,
 How thou dost cast away thyself! I must
 Proceed to execution hastily
 If thou confests it: Speak once again! is't so, or no?

Tim. I am not guilty, Sir.

Leuc. Gods and thy sword
 Acquit thee! here it is. [*Gives him his sword.*]

Tim. I'll not use any violence
 Against your highness.

Leuc. At thy peril then!
 For this must be thy trial; and from henceforth
 Look to thyself!
 [*Timantus draws his sword, they fight, Timantus falls.*]

Tim. I do beseech you, Sir,
 Let me not fight.

Leuc. Up, up again, Timantus!
 There is no way but this, believe me. Now if—
 Fy, fy, Timantus! is there no usage can
 Recover thee from baseness! Wert thou longer
 To converse with men, I'd have chid thee for this.
 Be all thy faults forgiven!

Tim. Oh, spare me, Sir! I am not fit for death.

Leuc. I think thou art not; yet trust me, fitter than
 For life. Yet tell me, ere thy breath be gone,
 Know'st of any other plots against me?

Tim. Of none.

Leuc. What course wouldst thou have taken, when
 thou hadst kill'd me?

Tim. I would have ta'en your page, and married her.

⁵⁵ *To purge thee or condemn thee; therefore
 A nobler trial than thou dost deserve.*] Here a verb is evidently
 left out, being equally necessary to the sense and measure. *Seward.*

518 CUPID'S REVENGE.

Leuc. What page? *[Urania swoons.*

Tim. Your boy there—— *[Dies.*

Leuc. Is he fall'n mad in death? what does he mean?
Some good god help me at the worst! How dost thou?
Let not thy misery vex me; thou shalt have
What thy poor heart can wish: I am a prince,
And I will keep thee in the gayest cloaths,
And the finest things, that ever pretty boy
Had given him.

Ura. I know you well enough.
Feth, I am dying; and now you know all too.

Leuc. But stir up thyself: Look what a jewel here is,
See how it glisters! what a pretty show
Will this make in thy little ear! ha, speak!
Eat but a bit, and take it.

Ura. Do you not know me?

Leuc. I prithee mind thy health! why, that's well said;
My good boy, smile still.

Ura. I shall smile 'till death,
An I see you! I am Urania,
Your sister-in-law.

Leuc. How!

Ura. I am Urania.

Leuc. Dulness did seize me! now I know thee well:
Alas, why cam'st thou hither?

Ura. Feth, for love:
I would not let you know 'till I was dying;
For you could not love me, my mother was
So naught.

Leuc. I will love thee, or any thing!
What, wilt thou leave me as soon as I know thee?
Speak one word to me! Alas, she's past it!
She will never speak more.—
What noise is that? it is no matter who

Enter Ismenus with the lords.

Comes on me now.—What worse than mad are you
That seek out sorrows? if you love delights,
Begone from hence!

Ism.

Ism. Sir, for you we come,
As soldiers to revenge the wrongs you've suffer'd
Under this naughty creature: What shall be done with
her?

Say; I am ready.

Leuc. Leave her to Heav'n, brave cousin!
They shall tell her how sh' has sinn'd against 'em;
My hand shall ne'er be stain'd with such base blood.
Live, wicked mother! that reverend title be
Your pardon! for I'll use no extremity
Against you, but leave you to Heav'n.

Bacha. Hell take you all! or, if there be a place
Of torment that exceeds that, get you thither!
And 'till the devils have you, may your lives
Be one continu'd plague, and such a one
That knows no friends nor ending! may all ages
That shall succeed curse you, as I do! and
If it be possible, I ask it Heav'n,
That your base issues may be ever monsters,
That must, for shame of Nature and succession,
Be drown'd like dogs! 'Would I had breath to poison
you⁵⁶!

Leuc. 'Would you had love within you, and such grief
As might become a mother! Look you there!
Know you that face? that was Urania:
These are the fruits of those unhappy mothers,
That labour with such horrid births as you do!
If you can weep, there's cause; poor innocent,
Your wickedness has kill'd her; I'll weep for you.

Ism. Monstrous woman!

Mars would weep at this, and yet she cannot.

Leuc. Here lies your minion too, slain by my hand:
I will not say you are the cause; yet certain,
I know you were to blame: The gods forgive you!

Ism. See, she stands as if she were inventing
Some new destruction for the world.

Leuc. Ismenus,

⁵⁶ *Would I had breath to poison you.*] Some editions (Seward's among the number) read,

Would I had breath to please you.

Thou'rt welcome yet to my sad company.

Ism. I come to make you somewhat sadder, Sir.

Leuc. You cannot; I am at the height already.

Ism. Your father's dead.

Leuc. I thought so; Heav'n be with him!

Oh, woman, woman, weep now or never! thou
Hast made more sorrows than we've eyes to utter.

Bacha. Now let Heav'n fall! I'm at the worst of evils;
A thing so miserably wretched, that
Ev'ry thing, the last of human comforts, hath left me!
I will not be so base and cold to live,
And wait the mercies of these men I hate:
No, it is just I die, since Fortune hath left me.
My steep descent attends me⁵⁷: Hand, strike thou home!
I've soul enough to guide; and let all know,
As I stood a queen, the same I'll fall,
And one with me! [*Stabs the prince, then herself.*]

Leuc. Oh!

Ism. How do you, Sir?

Leuc. Nearer my health than I think any here.
My tongue begins to falter: What is man?
Or who would be one, when he sees a poor
Weak woman can in an instant make him none?

Dor. She's dead already.

Ism. Let her be damn'd
Already, as she is! Post all for surgeons!

Leuc. Let not a man stir! for I am but dead.
I've some few words which I would have you hear,
And am afraid I shall want breath to speak 'em:
First to you, my lords; you know Ismenus is
Undoubted heir of Lycia⁵⁸; I do beseech you all,
When I am dead, to shew your duties to him.

Lords. We vow to do't.

Leuc. I thank you. Next to you,
Cousin Ismenus, that shall be the duke,
I pray you let the broken images⁵⁹
Of Cupid be re-edified! I know

⁵⁷ *My steep descent attends me.*] Corrected in 1750.

⁵⁸ *Undoubtedly heir.*] Varied by Seward.

⁵⁹ *I pray you let the broken image of Cupid.*] Altered in 1750.

All this is done by him.

Ism. It shall be so.

Leuc. Last, I beseech you that my mother-in-law
May have a burial according to—— [Dies.

Ism. To what, Sir?

Dor. There's a full point!

Ism. I will interpret for him: She shall have burial
According to her own deserts, with dogs!

Dor. I would your majesty would haste for settling
Of the people.

Ism. I'm ready.

Age. Go; and let the trumpets sound
Some mournful thing, whilst we convey the body
Of this unhappy prince unto the court,
And of that virtuous virgin to a grave!
But drag her to a ditch, where let her lie,
Accurs'd, whilst one man has a memory! [Exeunt.

IN the course of Mr. Seward's Notes on this Play, he remarks, that 'Had this whole plot, a father marrying his son's whore, the son's penitence and distress, and her plots for his destruction, been wrought into a tragedy, without the idle machinery of Cupid and his Revenge, it would have afforded sufficient matter to such geniuses as our Authors:' And afterwards says, 'I cannot take leave of this play without again regretting the farcical intermixture of the machinery of Cupid, from whence it takes its name. Without this, and the ridiculous death of the princess, what a noble tragedy would our Authors have left us? The character of the king from his ridiculous dotage on his children, to a still more ridiculous dotage on a wanton wife; the misfortunes of a virtuous young prince from taking one vicious step, and endeavouring to conceal it by a falsity, are finely describ'd; but how is the just moral arising from thence spoil'd, by making this only *Cupid's Revenge!*'

In our opinion, the Plot and the Machinery are equally ridiculous; and we cannot avoid expressing our concern, that so much admirable poetry should be bestowed on so absurd a drama.

END OF THE NINTH VOLUME.





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Beaumont, Francis
The dramattick works of
Beaumont and Fletcher

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